The postman's revolt

By CARL BLOICE
and RONALD STEVENSON

SAN FRANCISCO — The story behind the nationwide postal strike that rocked the country for the better part of two weeks was a lot bigger than most people think.

Its roots run deep.

On Jan. 24, Labor, the newspaper of the 14 unions representing railroad, airline and other transportation workers in the country asked the question:

"Has Postmaster General Winton M. Blount been chosen by the Administration to serve as a battering ram against labor, just as Vice President Spiro Agnew became the instrument for an assault on the communications media?"

From where the railroad union editors sat — long before anyone suspected the current crisis was brewing — there seemed to be good reason to think the answer to their question was "yes."

BLOUNT'S TALK

They had in their possession two speeches Blount had recently delivered — one in Los Angeles and one in Anaheim, Calif. — which they described as "walloping unions." In his Los Angeles speech to a group of building contractors, Blount had said, "it would be a very foolish thing to neglect the present opportunity to redress the balance of power between management and labor."

The railworkers' newspaper commented: "In other words, to put unions in their place."

Blount is himself a contractor. A big one. In 1946, he founded the Blount Brothers Corporation in Montgomery, Ala. while he was chairman of the board of a major piping contracting company.

He also knows the ins and outs of the military industrial complex. Fifty percent of Blount

(Continued on back page)

Nixon's army fails to stop postal workers

PEOPLE'S WORLD

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Unknown racist trial in far off Salinas

Special to The People's World

SALINAS — "Momma, if they kill me, I'll just be dead but I'll never kiss their feet."

These are the words of George Jackson, one of three black men being tried [illegible] the death of a guard at nearby Soledad State prison. Jackson told his mother "not to worry," but she's a mother and she does. "That's the way I raised him . . . They might kill my boy but he'll never be any man's slave."

Jackson, 28, is one of three prisoners accused of first degree murder in the death of the guard. His co-defendants are Fleeta Drumgo, 24, and George Cluchette, 23. Each of the men could receive the death penalty. but in Jackson's case it is mandatory if convicted, having served ten years of a one year to life term for alleged armed robbery. At age eighteen he was convicted without an opportunity for legal counsel.

(Continued on Page 2)

New Huelga offensive launched

—Story on page 4

VIVA LA RAZA!!

ON THE DENVER. Chicano students picket in front of Los Angeles' Roosevelt High School on the anniversary of police incidents in March, 1968 when over 125 were arrested in one week. This week Spanish speaking young people from all over the country are gathered in Denver for the second Chicano Youth Liberation Conference.

Strike's meaning for the rest of us

Talk to the people on the picketlines and you quickly find the people are angry .They are angry first of all because inflation is making it increasingly impossible to live. They are angry secondly because nobody seems to care and the big newspapers tell lies, say that wage demands created the situation. But people are also just plain mad in general. They are also incensed by the waste, rotteness and destruction all around them — of the glib hyprocrisy of the people who are supposed to be leading them.

That seemed to be the mood of the men and women on the Post Office lines, and steadily and surely the anger sought out the place to pinpoint responsibility of the situation.

The responsibility for the postal crisis that hit the country this week lies directly on the narrow shoulders of Richard M. Nixon. As they say, he's the one.

And he's the one that can correct the situation that forced hundreds of thousands of mailhandlers and carriers to walk off the job.

He's the only one that can guarantee that something is done to secure the livelihood of the other millions who plan to set up picketlines because the value of their paychecks is getting smaller and smaller each week — buying less and less bread and eggs and less and less rent.

Of course Congress has completely abdicated its responsibility in this matter. (On March 16, two days before the strike began the House was having a silly debate over a proposal by that silly Congressman Mendel Rivers to create the grade of lieutenant general — a three star rank — for an officer serving as the Chief of the National Guard Bureau.) Of course, Congressional action on a pay increase could end the strike and protests and demands should be directed to individual congressmen. But the main spotlight is on the White House.

The Administration, if it really wanted to deal with the labor upheaval presently shaking the nation, and threatening to grow to even larger proportions, could take two steps:

- End the war in Vietnam. Only the immediate end of the waste and destruction of the war holds any real hope of bringing the nation's runaway inflation under control. Each time a bomber is shot down in Southeast Asia tens of millions of dollars of the nation's wealth is destroyed. Every destroyer built wastes $27 million, enough to build nine schools and employ thousands in so doing. Prosperous nations have, in the past, been bled dry by foreign wars and imperialist adventures.

- Take immediate steps to reduce prices. There are a number of means which the Administration could use to bring prices down, including an immediate proclamation, or congressional action, to reduce prices at the wholesale level by at least 10%. If the Administration can declare a strike by postal workers a national emergency, then it could — with much more justification — conclude that the cruel inflation gnawing at every workers' and pensioner's existence is a national catastrophe.

Both of these things could be done rather quickly once the White House and Capitol Hill had made up their minds to do something. But unless there is a great outcry from the public and leadership from people whose dedication to working people is more than a title or an office, neither of these things shall happen.

For the people who put Nixon in office and who sent the senators and congressmen to Washington — indeed, many of the representatives themselves — are making great sums off the present situation. They are either lining the pockets with profits from making guns and boats and uniforms or they are engaged in the price gouging that goes on everyday in the supermarkets, the department stores and on the automobile lots from New Britian to San Jose.

And now there can be little doubt that Richard Millhouse manipulated the postal crisis in order to fulfill something he's planned for a long time — handing over the whole postal system to private industry. So some of the rich boys can get even richer at our expense.

The rich and powerful in this country have apparently decided that this is the time for the stick rather than the carrot. So the military force that has descended on black and brown communities in recent years has fallen upon striking workers. And there are threats of more to come. If the people don't act fast the army could be running the railroads, driving the trucks and manning the warehouses by mid-summer.

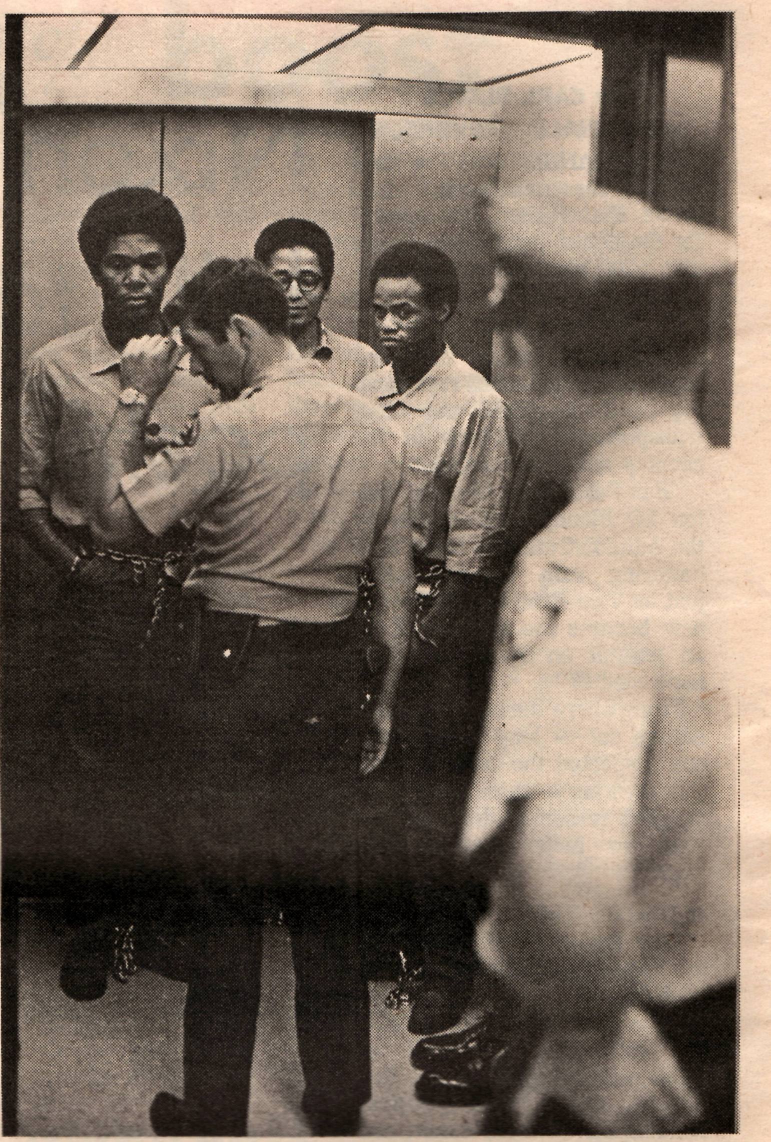
But it looks like maybe Washington miscalculated. Probably because they got their information from some of the same do-nothing labor leaders that have discovered the revolt on the picketline is against them as well. Fortunately, and to the surprise of the fat rear ends affected, some of them are obviously headed for retirement as the labor struggles produce new leadership.

One of the main things to be guarded against right now is provincialism (i.e. a limited local or craft viewpoint). It should be clear by now that the problems facing working people whether these people are working for the city

(Continued on page 6)

Face racist Salinas court

Three in Soledad fighting for life



GEORGE JACKSON, FLEETA DRUMGO and GEORGE CLUCHETTE, facing first degree murder charge in the death of a Soledad prison guard, are herded back and forth in chains.

(Continued from page 1)

The city of Salinas is heavy with the stench of exploitation ringed with labor camps, some of them fenced and guarded against "outside agitators." Throngs of men with nothing but a bedroll to their name waiting for a chance to break their backs in the fields for $1.65 an hour. They sleep in the weeds, the contractors buses are filled and they go back to the weeds.

This fertile valley 70 miles south of San Jose was once the home of California fascism. In the thirties when the men and women in the packing sheds tried to organize, the pillars of Salinas society unleashed a bloody campaign of death and terror. Martial law was the rule and murder in the streets the fate of strikers and organizers.

That heritage is not dead. It lives on in the courtroom of Judge Gordon Campbell. Serving as judge he doubles as advocate for the prosecution, making it unnecessary for the D.A. to even enter into the courtroom dialogue. The judge has denied every defense motion.

'A CONSPIRACY'

Richard Silver, lawyer for Drumgo, rose in the courtroom March 16 to say, "I allege there is a conspiracy." Neither the judge nor the D.A. denied the charge.

When the three men were first accused, their mothers were told that they were just among many being questioned. Prison officials told Doris Maxwell, mother of Cluchette, "He doesn't need a lawyer." Letters from the defendants were being withheld from the mails for up to two weeks. It was by sheer luck and reading between the lines that the mothers were able to get the case continued long enough to get lawyers.

At the early court appearances the three men were barred from hearing one another's court testimony even though they were charged jointly. The men were held in solitary confinement and are unable to visit with either their mothers or the lawyers without being shackled and watched by two armed guards.

The defense has been denied the right to question any witnesses but those selected by the D.A. But many of the key defense witnesses are said to have been hustled off to prisons throughout the state to make them unavailable.

Campbell, and the prison authorities denied the defense the right to simply examine or photograph the stairwell where the guard was killed. During the time lapse the area has been altered and reconstructed beyond recognition. The court refuses to halt the construction work.

The judge, in the interest of "fairness" has gagged the lawyers and defendants, forbidding any discussing of the case with the press. He said openly, "The prosecution is guaranteed the right of a fair trial."

In spite of his own gag rule, Campbell ruled on March 16 to give the Grand Jury transcript to the press. Not even the D.A. had the gall to ask for such a prejudicial break in the press gag. The defense was not allowed to offer proof that the Grand Jury testimony was taken under "psychological coercion" and without any cross - examination. The judge made the motion for the D.A. and overruled all defense objections.

Jackson's counsel, Fay Stender and San Jose Attorney John Thorne, moved to dismiss the indictment on the grounds that the Grand Jury is unconstitutionally a "blue ribbon committee, wholly unrepresentative of the black, Chicano and working class portions of the community." They were overruled.

Campbell refused to allow any hearing on the matter on the basis that the Grand Jury "has two Americans of Nigra ancestry" and the panel from which it was chosen "had the name of a Spanish or Mexican—Rodriguez or something like that." He wouldn't discuss the token use of blacks, the fact that the county never had a Mexican American on the Grand Jury or its complete upper class orientation.

DEFENDANTS IN IRONS

On March 16 the courtroom was filled with more than a hundred spectators supporting the defense. One of the nine armed sheriff's deputies in the room said, "I ain't never seen a crowd like this in a Salinas court before." After a morning of defense motions denied, the spectators refused to rise for the entrance of the judge. They remained silent and seated, rising only when the defendants were led into the room, their wrists shackled to chains around the waist and under the crotch, their legs in irons, despite all defense objections and pleas.

When called upon for a plea of guilty or not, the three men stood mute. The lawyers advised them not to make a plea, having been denied any opportunity to examine the necessary evidence. The judge ordered a not guilty plea for the defendants and set the trial for June 22. The defense asked for more time to evaluate the evidence which had been denied, and to interview the over 130 dispersed witnesses, but Campbell was adamant.

Cluchette was scheduled for release on April 28. Drumgo was due for a parole hearing and Jackson was in his tenth year of an indeterminate sentence. They all have their lives in the balance. With their clenched fists raised, to all but break their chains, they looked out at the spectators in confidence and faith.

Lawyer Richard Silver, in his final statement to the court on March 16, said, "The interest in criminal justice is seeking the truth, not rushing to the gallows."

People in the area who have been following the case closely, charge the court is rigged for a quick conviction. One said, "If the defendants are to find justice it will be based on the strength of the people outside the court.

"If the people fail to tear the cloak of racist fascism from the ritual of the court, the lives of these men will be wasted."

Southwest sees La Raza resurgence

LOS ANGELES — New movements among Chicanos — in labor and the arts — are emerging and old ones are undergoing some meaningful changes.

For a considerable period of time there have existed in the trade union movement traditional Mexican clubs or caucuses. By and large they have been adjuncts of the labor movement organized to serve, within the restricted rules and regulations of the unions, as a none-too- effective vehicle for organized labor's approach to the Spanish speaking people.

In some instances they have been little more than instruments for one or another groupments for one or another internal grouping.

Lately a new button has been seen at many of the militant demonstrations. It has only two words on it, "Chicano Caucus," and the tri-colored medallion on which they are imprinted is red, white and green, the Mexican national colors.

It is worn proudly by members of the recently organized United Auto Workers Union Chicano caucus.

Organized several months ago in Southern California among local union leaders and activists, the caucus began to develop an independent program aimed at focusing the attention of UAW and the labor movement on the demands of the Chicanos

Within a short span of time it became a going operation in this area. They met with the union leaders at various levels, including UAW President Walter Reuther.

An attempt to short change the East Los Angeles Community Union in the disbursement of funds brought a sharp reaction from the fledgling organization.

Weak as it yet was the organization convinced the unions involved. (components of the Alliance for Labor Action) to take seriously the community oriented, union sponsored center.

The concern of the Chicano unionists has by no means been limited to struggles within organized labor. Many have been at the community meetings around the heated Roosevelt High School dispute here.

Plans have been made to intervene in that struggle with unionists joining militant students in support of demands for better education programs and facilities in the barrios.

The Chicano Caucus has been spreading its influence and membership. Within the past fortnight the first meeting of the UAW Chicano Caucus met in Northern California. In attendance were 75 local leaders and activists. The Southern California unit has more than 125 members.

A third chapter was in the process of being formed in Texas, where Chicanos play a significant role within the UAW and throughout the labor movement.

All of these developments within the UAW, which have begun to affect Chicano movements in other unions, represent more than a change of emphasis — it is virtually an entire new concept which has a dual loyalty, to the community and to organized labor.

Probably in no other field have Chicanos and Latinos been involved as in the entertainment field. Many have found it necessary to adopt anglicized names in order to get employment in front of the footlights. A brown skin under any name has traditionally disqualified Chicanos from employment in all but a few of the skilled crafts.

CHICANOS
HAVE BEEN
BRUTALIZED
TOO LONG!
¡YA BASTA!

The new Chicano youth are leading an awakening of Mexican American culture.

Using a traditional concept, "Pride and Unity," which in this instance has a new significance, the Congress of Mexican American Unity is presenting an evening of entertainment at the 14,000 seat Sports Area in Los Angeles on Saturday, April 4, which will be a showcase of Chicano and Latino entertainment.

The entertainers that night, said Esteban Torres, president of the CMAU, will be donating their services.

Proceeds from this unprecedented show will be "to set up communications (centers), one for the Southern Los Angeles area of the state and another in Sacramento for the northern part of the state," Torres said.

Delegations are expected from throughout the state at this event, which the CMAU said "is focused on ending fragmentation of our people and bringing about unity."

Included on the program will be Anthony Quinn, Paco Cadena and Lupita Moran. Joining this star studded cast from north of the border will be some top notch favorites from Mexico who have many fans here. They are Susan Rincon, Pedro Ray, Trio Los Naipes and Mariachi Imperial de Gabriel Leyva.

(Continued on page 9)

Judge lambasts DA

Goodlett case called mistrial

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco District Attorney John Ferdon last week prevented what might have been a dramatic court test of the widespread practice of excluding black people from juries in cases involving black defendants.

He did so by simply not appearing in court.

Ferdon had been ordered March 19 to appear in the courtroom of Municipal Judge Paul Meyers to answer charges his office had acted to systematically exclude black people from the jury in the trial of four black professional and community leaders.

They were standing trial on charges growing out of participation in actions during the student and teachers' strike at SF State College Dec. 3, 1968.

On trial were Urban League aide Thomas Gwyn, Rev. Clair Nesmith, Rev. Gerald Pederson and publisher Dr. Carlton Goodlett. The trial began with jury selection March 3.

CARLTON GOODLETT
Can't get a fair trial

Both the prosecution and the defense had 30 peremptory challenges. A peremptory challenge is one that is not for cause; it is a challenge for which no reason is given. The number of peremptory challenges to which each side is entitled is usually prescribed by statute.

By March 19, the third week of the trial, approximately 75 of approximately 150 prospective jurors who had been examined were excused for cause — reasons that serving on the jury would work a hardship on them.

William Byrnes, an assistant prosecutor, used 10 of 27 peremptory challenges to eliminate black people from the jury.

It was at this point defense attorneys challenged the D.A. with "willfully and systematically excluding black people by peremptory challenges." The jurors were recessed.

Judge Meyers ordered Byrnes to notify Ferdon, to be in court that afternoon at 2 p.m.

When Ferdon did not appear, Meyers, visibly perturbed, ordered Byrnes to get his boss on the phone, remarking:

"This is not child's play; he is an officer of the Court. Tell him I want him here."

At 3:20 p.m. when the D.A. still had not appeared, an assistant D.A. was mumbling "no such policy" against black jurists existed and never had.

The defense attorneys said they were "shocked" and "appalled" that the D.A. could ask the community to "observe law and order and himself not appear when ordered by a judge of the Municipal Court."

MISTRIAL RULED

Judge Meyers declared a mistrial after saying, "there has been so much of an atmosphere of criticism of the exercising of peremptory challenges of prospective jurors the Court must recognize the effect on the remaining jurors."

A new trial date was not set.

Justice means many things to many people. And the trial of the four professional men reflected the long standing problem of citizens being charged with several different crimes and being offered a chance to plead guilty to one, thus giving up the right to a jury trial.

If the accused refused to give up the right to a jury trial then when the selection of the jury is begun the problem becomes one of how to get an unprejudiced courtroom with an unstacked jury.

The defendants in this case were charged with unlawful assembly, failure to disperse, resisting arrest and being on campus without proper authorization. They were offered an opportunity by the District Attorney's office to plead nolo contendere (no contest) on the failure to disperse charge. They would then pay a fine plus a penalty of $312.50 and the three remaining charges would be dropped.

Nesmith and Gwyn accepted the nolo contendere, Pederson was undecided and Goodlett refused.

The D.A.'s office revoked the offer because it was not accepted unanimously. They were also denied separate trials and the two who had accepted the nolo contendere were then denied the plea.

MOBE action call for April 15: 'Who profits, who pays for war?'

SAN FRANCISCO — The National New Mobilization Committee has designated April 15th as a day of major activity in the Spring Offensive to end the war. The theme of that day's activity throughout the country will be "Who pays for the war? Who profits?" In every corner of the country there will be actions such as on October 15th. April 15th is income tax day so Internal Revenue offices will be one focus of the demonstrations.

The Labor Assembly for Peace and the West Coast Mobilization Committee has proposed a "Don't Work" day April 15th which has taken on national proportions.

Already the following unions have endorsed the concept of April 15th and pledged to protect individual workers who choose to take that day off: Local No. 6 International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the Northern California Executive Board of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, the Amalgamated Clothing Worker's, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employes.

In Los Angeles, Paul Schrade, western regional director of the UAW has appointed his personal representative to work full time on the "Don't Work' day in that area.

In San Francisco there will be a major rally April 15th at noon at the Civic Center. It will be preceded by a Labor Assembly for Peace rally on the waterfront. (Ferry Building) at 10:00 a.m. There will also be other "constituency" rallies in the morning — one for downtown workers at the Stock Exchange sponsored by the Downtown Peace Coalition, one scheduled by Welfare Rights and Women's groups to be held at a welfare office, as well as others.

Volunteers are needed for Mobe office work, to leaflet plant gates, or sit at downtown tables.

This Easter Sunday is Grace Partridge's day!

SAN FRANCISCO — Easter Sunday seems like an appropriate day to honor Grace Partridge on her 78th birthday.

She was raised in a Protestant orphanage, began her working life at 16 as a drug clerk in the New Orleans Presbyterian Hospital, and entered public life as a church charity worker back in Louisiana.

However, despite the Easter holiday and her early church associations, focus on her birthday celebration will be on other matters, which have occupied the second half of her 78 years. These range from her activities in the Unemployed Council in San Bernardino in the early 1930's to her defense of foreign born citizens as secretary of the Northern California Committee for Protection of the Foreign Born throughout most of the 1950's and into the 1960's.

In between she was an activist in the old International Labor Defense, helping agricultural workers to resist grower terror, as they tried to organize. Keeping other people out of jail was hazardous, and she herself landed in the San Bernardino jail.

She shared these labors with her husband, Sid Partridge, a railroad worker and tireless distibutor of the People's World and other radical literature on the Pacific Coast.

Since his death in 1952 she has carried on alone. Not really alone, as will be demonstrated this Sunday. Her quiet determination and toughness, her utter devotion to the struggles for freedom and socialism, have won the respect and affection of those who have come to know her.

This Sunday's reception will be held, 2 to 6 p.m., at 608 Second avenue. Proceeds will go to her favorite paper, the People's World.

Dellums forces gather

OAKLAND — Supporters of Ron Dellums, congressional candidate in the 7th district, are being alerted to attend mobilizations set for this Saturday, March 28, 10 a.m.

Berkeleyites are gathering at (1) 5501 Shattuck avenue, 633-3256, (2) 1708 Grove street, and (3) 2842 Sacramento street.

Most Oaklanders are meeting at the same time at the campaign office, 2816 East 14th street.

Also, a Berkeley Coalition campaign meeting will be held Monday, March 30, at 8 p. m. at the Longfellow School, 1500 Derby.

Irish freedom walk set here

SAN FRANCISCO — To honor Irish patriot Kevin Barry, to commemorate the 54th anniversary of the 1916 Easter uprising in Ireland and in protest of the continuing military occupation of Northern Ireland by Britain, the Committee for Irish Freedom and the Kevin Barry Memorial Club will co-sponsor a march Saturday, March 28.

The march will begin at 1 p.m. in front of the statue of Irish patriot, Robert Emmet (next to the Steinhart Aquarium) in Golden Gate Park and proceed to the home of the British Consul General on Pacific Avenue.

When the marchers reach the Consul General's home, they will picket silently for an hour as a tribute to the courage of Irish political prisoners now being held in British jails.

A list of Irish prisoners in British jails will be given to the British Consul General along with a demand for their release.

All of those who are interested in Irish liberation are invited to join the march. For further information phone: Paul Shuttleworth, 665-1933 (days) or Judith Maloney, 388-4450 (days).

Los Siete demand trial be held in Spanish

SAN FRANCISCO — Though the case of "Los Siete de la Raza" is still caught up in a web of pre-trial motions, there is nothing conventional about these motions.

Charles Garry, chief attorney for the group, urged on March 16 the trial be conducted in Spanish to accomodate "a whole segment of untapped population in this area," the Chronicle reported.

When Superior Court Judge Joseph Karesh warned this procedure would eliminate the services of Deputy District Attorney Thomas Norman, Garry replied, "He can use an interpreter."

In addition, Garry pointed out the prospective jury included no members of the Spanish-speaking community.

Further arguments on this and other motions will be heard on March 26 when the judge is expected to make a decision. Karesh set April 6 as a tentative trial date.

At another preliminary hearing on March 23, R. Jay Engel, attorney for Nelson Rodriguez, one of the seven, called for a separate trial for his client.

Engel feared that "stool-pigeon" testimony prejudicial to several of the other defendants may rub off on his client and implicate him in the minds of the jury.

Mike Kennedy, attorney for Danilo Melendez, another of the seven, condemned the informers as "those finks who made a deal with the District Attorney's office."

STOOLIES IN CELL

Garry charged the "stool pig-pigeons" were put in the defendants' cell either by the police department or the D.A.'s office or volunteered the testimony in order to make a deal with the D.A. As a result of this, Garry charged the "stool-pigeons," whom he described as possible "killers," would probably be set free within a year's time.

Garry, Kennedy, and Richard Hodge, attorney for Gary Lescallet, threatened to also introduce a motion for a separate trial for their respective clients if the judge does not grant Engel's motion.

Los Siete are a group of young Latins charged with the killing of San Francisco police officer Joseph Brodnik on May 1.

The prosecution claims that the officer was shot by one of the youth with Brodnik's partner's gun after he and his partner, Paul McGoran, stopped the youth to investigate a possible burglary.

Although the defense has not officially made public its side of the story, at a rally in support of Los Siete on Feb. 16, Kennedy said, "With his own gun, he (McGoran) shot his own pig Brodnik." He added, "Pig McGoran had been gun happy."

Latino and Chicano militants claim the seven (one remains free) are political victims of a frame-up. Several of the youth were leaders in the Mission District community and at San Mateo State College which they attended.

The six defendants are Jose and Rodolfo Martinez, Danilo Melendez, Nelson Rodriguez, Jose Rios, and Gary Lescallet.

Lenin Centennial Festival May 3

A picnic featuring music, dancing, speeches, games, food, etc., is scheduled for Tilden Park in Berkeley, to honor the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Lenin. Watch for more details.

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Coachella to spearhead '70 strike

Growers dump grapes; hit by massive boycott

By SAM KUSHNER

DELANO — A three pronged offensive which could possibly lead to the breaking of the five year stalemate in the grape fields moved into high gear last week.

The mounting pressure on the growers to settle the historic dispute is reflected in the diversity of actions in which the union is participating or projecting. It is also evidenced by the pressure on the growers by such diverse groups as the Catholic Church and the state AFL-CIO.

On Monday, March 23, United Farm Workers Organizing Committee representatives had their second face to face session in recent weeks with spokesmen for many of the major table grape growers. The meeting in Fresno was initiated by a special committee of the Bishop's Council of the Catholic Church which had been assigned the responsibility of "fact finding" in the strike.

Union spokesmen do not necessarily consider these meetings to be negotiating sessions. At best they are looked upon as preliminary meetings which could lead to full scale negotiations in the future.

But sitting across the table from the growers, a necessary condition for reaching an ultimate agreement, is by no means all that the farm union has going for it these days.

Plans have already been made to strike the Coachella Valley grapes in mid-April. This will kick off the grape strike for 1970.

UNITY UNDER UFWOC

Five years ago it was the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee spring strike in the Coachella Valley which set the stage for the historic walkout in Delano in September, 1966. AWOC has since merged with the Cesar Chavez led Farm Workers Assn. to form a united union under the UFWOC banner.

Backing up the projected strike action is the most massive boycott the union has yet mounted. The effect of the past boycotts were on display for all to see in Delano in recent weeks as growers dumped tons of unsold grapes.

The growers were hopefully emptying out their cold storage sheds in anticipation of this year's crop. But the union, by putting on a double squeeze, hopes to frustrate these hopes.

Following a week long intensive fact finding session, the union launched its 1970 boycott program. Not satisfied with last year's showing which cut table grape purchases throughout the nation by 10%, the union is out to cut further into grape sales at the retail level.

"We now know just about how much it costs to produce every single box of table grapes in the United States and where it was shipped and sold," one union spokesman said.

Persistent reports of impending bankruptcies among some of the marginal growers reflects the unions effectiveness in the boycott.

Not only were retail sales cut but many of the growers were compelled to sell their products below cost. In some instances prime table grapes were converted to wine grapes, which bring far less income.

STEP UP BOYCOTT

More than two dozen union officials and strikers have left Delano for cities throughout the nation. Their job is to escalate the boycott of table grapes.

Chavez expressed the belief that at least a thousand supporters of the huelga will join them in the cities across the continent in the boycott activities.

Simultaneously the labor movement in California has been called upon to redouble its support efforts. Hundreds of trade unionists from all parts of the state are expected here this weekend, March 27, 28 and 29, to join in a massive Easter solidarity demonstration.

UFWOC has been looking forward to the kind of demonstration that sends shivers down the spines of the growers. With additional manpower for the picket lines and strikes and much needed added financial support the union would be poised for its major victory push.

John F. Henning, newly elected state AFL-CIO treasurer, will be among the labor luminaries here this weekend. He will be joined by many who are heads of powerful local central labor bodies.

Demands from increasing circles in the Catholic Church, especially from Mexican American priests and church members, is believed to have played a key role in the intervention by the church's Council of Bishops.

CESAR CHAVEZ — A gleam at possible victory in '70?

Another meeting of the council is scheduled for late April in San Francisco. The report of the special committee is expected at that time. If the growers have not moved towards settlement by then, a strong movement is expected for endorsement of the union sponsored boycott.

AWAIT RULING

But the growers and their supporters have not been idle. The recent ruling by a Natl. Labor Relations Board examiner in San Francisco that the boycott is a violation of the secondary boycott provision of the Taft Hartley Law (which specifically excludes farm workers from its coverage) has yet to be ruled on by the full NLRB.

As word of the talks with the growers became known in increasingly wider circles union spokesmen cautioned that it should not lead to any diminishing of support for the strike and boycott. They say negotiations last year, and misleading reports of an imminent setltement, adversely affected the boycott last year.

This year they are determined to pursue equally the strike, the boycott and all avenues which might lead to a settlement while giving ground on none of these fronts.

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Senate bill threat to block Teamster strike

People's World Labor Dept.

DETROIT — Although negotiations between the Intl. Brotherhood of Teamsters and the Trucking Employers, Inc., are continuing in Washington, the threat of a major showdown remains.

TEI has made an offer of 40c an hour for the first year of the proposed three year contract and 30c an hour for the next two years.

It was learned, however, that the Teamsters will not accept anything lower than a $2 package for the next three years — 50c an hour each year, and 50c in fringe benefits.

However, observers say an optimistic note prevails in the discussions which were due to be recessed for the Easter holidays.

Over the March 21, 22 weekend membership meetings were held nationally and the locals were told no firm offer has yet been made by management.

Tim Richardson, head of IBT Local 85 in San Francisco, whose membership is most directly affected by the current negotiations, said, "We had no offer. I haven't heard anything."

Talks will continue until the March 31 deadline when the current contract expires. It covers the nation's long haul freight drivers.

However, many union local contracts, such as that of the men who deliver furniture and appliances, are based on the wages and conditions set down in the national freight contract.

While negotiations continue and before any strike vote has been taken, U. S. Senator Robert Griffin (R-Mich.) has introduced legislation aimed at breaking any national teamster strike.

His bill calls for a 120 day "cooling off" period before any legally authorized strike could take place and proposes forms of compulsory arbitration.

The bill is aimed at the Teamsters Union as it specifically names the trucking industry as vital to the nation which therefore must be protected as his bill outlines.

IBT general vice president, Frank Fitzsimmons, has notified all sections of the union of this strikebreaking move by Griffin, who was a co-author of the anti-labor Landrum-Griffin Act.

He has urged all local unions to demand hands off the negotiations and free collective bargaining.

On the LINE

AN UNSIGNED poem distributed on pastel green paper to striking postal workers in San Francisco contained a frightening description of the working conditions inside the post office. It said:

"Safety standards are ignored.

"Aisles are clogged, exits blocked.

"Dust and noise fill the air.

"People are jammed in and herded like cattle.

"Officials laugh at grievances.

"They try to fire people who help . . ."

• • •

According to one well placed report, other unions facing bargaining sessions over new contracts this year are refusing to consider the settlement with General Electric as any kind of model for what they hope to come out with.

United Automobile Workers leaders, for instance, are reported to consider the GE settlement a minimum and don't plan to settle at anything but two per cent above the eight percent electrical agreement.

* * *

A lot of people said San Francisco mayor Joseph Alioto's commitment to "collective bargaining" was vague at the conclusion of the recent city workers' strike. The latest issue of the California AFL-CIO News quotes him:

"I don't think we're going to wind up with the city signing contracts but will wind up with a system that recognizes bargaining agents for groups of people."

Whatever that means.

* * *

THE ODDS have risen on the possibility of a strike by Los Angeles teachers after Easter.

This was the estimate of Robert Ransom, president of the 22,000 member United Teachers of Los Angeles, who said last week there was a 50-50 chance of a strike. Other labor observers put the odds much higher on the likelihood of strike .

One reason cited is the long way the L.A. school system has to go to catch up with the admittedly inadequate educational standards in all other major cities. The L.A. schools lead all others in one respect — overcrowding.

"Our various surveys of the UTLA membership indicate that class size, remedial reading programs, and the problems of inner-city schools are at least as important to teachers as salaries — probably more so."

* * *

In announcing the union's support for the April 15 "Don't Work" peace action, Sam Krips, manager of the Northern California Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, commented:

"THE SONS of workers are drafted and die in this immoral war, while the profits of the corporations get bigger. Workers take a pay cut every time the cost of living goes up — driven by war inflation and profiteering. Workers can't catch up with rising prices and heavier taxes and that's why workers should turn out on April 15 and demand an end to the war."

—COMRADE

Cambodian coup

The army yearned for dollars

By BOB KAUFMAN

SAN FRANCISCO — In seeking to carry out his policy of "letting Asians fight Asians" has Nixon decided to give Cambodia the Indonesia treatment?

Ousted Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk may be thinking so at the moment.

Two years ago he pegged his then Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Lon Nol, the man who just led the coup that ousted Sihanouk. Lon Nol, Sihanouk said at the time, is the "Cambodian Suharto." Suharto is the current military dictator of Indonesia, friend of U.S. investments, and the man who led the overthrow of Indonesian President Sukarno and the massacre of unknown hundreds of thousands of Indonesians suspected of being "communists."

But just last month, someone the press called a U.S. advisor, opined Cambodia was entering a period of "Sukarnoization."

The ouster of Prince Sihanouk comes of course at an ideal time for the Nixon administration and the military. Their puppet regime in Laos, and especially the CIA's highly touted secret army of Meo tribesmen is being defeated by the Lao liberation forces. Nixon was forced to pull in troops from rightist Thailand into the Laos fighting.

Reports since the coup in Cambodia indicate U.S. officers on the Vietnam side of the Cambodian border are anxious for the Cambodians to start shooting at troops of the National Liberation front.

U.S. INVOLVED

Was the U.S. directly involved in the Cambodian coup? Sihanouk thinks they were, and he has considerable evidence. Sihanouk as a matter of fact has been treating the army, under Lon Nol's leadership, as a creature of the U.S. for years.

In the years before the break in diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Cambodia in 1965, the U.S. supplied equipment, training and money to the Cambodian army, as well as general financial aid to shore up the Cambodian treasury.

Since Sihanouk, anxious to preserve Cambodian neutrality, broke with the U.S., his army has chafed over the deterioration of equipment and the lack of dollars.

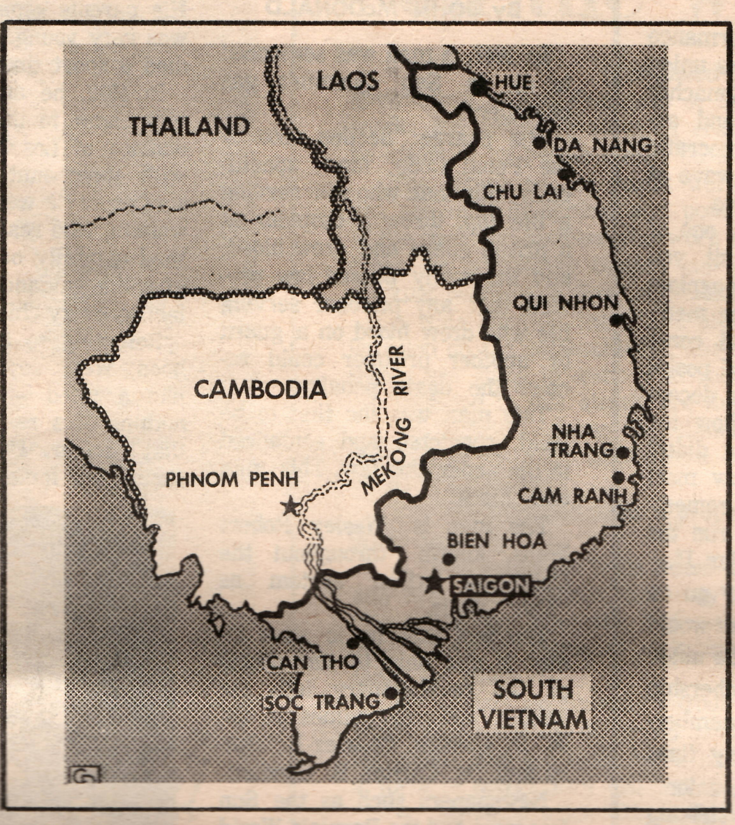
A few days after the riots against the Vietnamese that preceded the coup, Sihanouk, interviewed in Paris pictured the army as ripe for bribing. "The United States," he said, "would like to penetrate into Cambodia and change the country's politics and ideology. I'm sure the Americans have already made wonderful promises, particularly to the Army." He predicted a "trial of strength" between himself and the rightist forces. "The Army is divided," he said. "It does not hate me, but it is also attached to Lon Nol, and he like all army officers favors the right."

LON NOL
Cambodian Suharto

But why then did Sihanouk let a Lon Nol become Premier and Defense Minister in the first place? Sihanouk's power has always rested, not so much on the allegiance of the masses of Cambodians, as on his ability to play off the left against the right at home, just as he has shifted from courting the U.S. to courting China, the Soviet Union, the NLF and North Vietnam.

He used Lon Nol, who after all was a part of the small aristocratic clique that rules Cambodia. Sihanouk himself is very much a part of that aristocracy.

In 1967 he fully supported Lon Nol when the army brutally suppressed a peasant uprising in Battambang province. Battambang, unlike most other parts of Cambodia, where the peasants own their own land, is plagued by wealthy landowners. The peasants there are more an agricultural proletariat. Today it is one of the strongholds of the armed liberation movement, called by Sihanouk the Khmer rouge (Khmer reds). The Khmer are the ethnic and language group that make up the great majority of the seven million Cambodians.



In a speech in Feb. 1968, Sihanouk warned if the left did not stop the growing insurgent movement, "it will be necessary to dissolve the Sangkum (Sihanouk's own Buddhist Socialist mass party B.K.) and to hand over power to the military authorities, led by Lon Nol. It will be up to him to decide whether we should accept U.S. aid again."

Today in Cambodia the revolutionary movement is stronger than it was a year ago, though it is still quite small, about 3000 fighting men. It also now includes the Montangnard Khmer Loeu minority group, fighting, in the far northeast corner, near the Laos and South Vietnamese border, against Cambodian cultural oppression.

The Cambodian economy is also a factor in the coup puzzle. The government was going broke. Usually a rice exporter, Sihanouk had to import rice from China last year.

Since his "socialism" wasn't working to the satisfaction of the elite, Sihanouk late last year tried to re-open Cambodia to foreign banks. The Sangkum openly opposed this right turn, and the plan was dropped. Lon Nol has just invited foreign banks to come back in.

It remains to be seen what will happen to the honest socialists in the Sangkum. All civil liberties are suspended under the new regime.

Sihanouk recognized the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, and even had an agreement to supply rice to the National Liberation Front. He bitterly opposed the U.S. war in Vietnam. But it was mainly because he wished to preserve the respect of powerful neighbors he considered traditional enemies of the Cambodians, along classic nationalist lines.

That nationalism allowed the politicians of the right to build a base among the thousands of restless, unemployed young students in the capital. These were the people unleashed against the Vietnamese embassies, and the native Vietnamese minority in the Phnom Penh riots.

Sihanouk often said he wanted the U.S. to stay in Asia. "If the U.S. were to leave Asia completely," he said, "it would be the end of my independence." His country just fell to the imperialists he thought he could use.

Nazification in Greece

Underground unions fight the junta

By EMMANUEL PITHAROULIS

Emmanual Pitharoulis is the General Secretary of the Greek United Trade Union Anti-dictatorship Movement.

LONDON

A few days after seizing power in April, 1967, the military dictatorship in Greece isued the General Army Staff's Proclamation No. 5, dissolving 220 workers' organization, and confiscating their property.

Thousands of workers and employes, including 120 elected trade union officials, were arrested. Elected trade union bodies were dismissed and replaced with pro-junta people.

Having declared the country in a state of siege, the junta abolished the right to strike, the right of association, the right to assembly.

Civil and trade union rights were abolished. The arrested were brutally tortured; the murdered included the well known attorney Christos Mandalaras and Panayiotis Ellis. Among those severely beaten was Elias Eliou, MP for EDA (the United Democratic Left).

SACKED

The colonels passed a series of anti-labor laws on the basis of which scores of workers and employes were sacked in large firms such as the shipyards, metal works, the Onassis Olympic Airlines, Viochaiko, the Electric Power Co., banks and many other enterprises. The 2,500 employes and seamen of the Typaidou Co. received no wages for months.

Protests, memoranda to employers and ministers were the earliest forms of struggle. At the end of 1967 the first strikes were declared—of the taxi drivers of Athens, the textile workers, the printers of the newspaper Acropolis. The junta replied by passing even harsher measures.

Not long after the fascist coup, the workers, employes, the Greek patriots in general set up the first anti-dictatorship organizations.

Among the most important are the Patriotic Anti-dictatorship Front (PAM), the Democratic Defense (DA) and others.

In the labor field there are the Labor PAM (EPAM), the United Anti-dictatorship Trade Union Movement of Greek Seamen (EASKEN), the Democratic National Movement of Working People (DEKE) and the United Trade Union Anti-dictatorship Movement (ESAK), which is the broad, coordinating united front organization.

To nobody's surprise, the leaders of the General Confederation of Labor of Greece supported the dictatorship. It had been a puppet un on even before the coup of April 21, 1967.

EXPULSION

In September, 1967, Greek seamen trade unionists, with the help of the Scandinavian Transport Workers Federation, set up EASKEN. Trade unionists who managed to escape arrest and flee the country founded ESAK in April, 1968, with the help of three large trade union federations of Italy.

One important result was the expulsion of the General Confederation of Labor of Greece from the ranks of the Intl. Confederation of Trade Unions on June 1, 1969, and the suspension of the pro-junta Pan-Hellenic Maritime Federation by the Intl. Transport Workers Federation.

Finally, in December, 1969, the junta was forced to withdraw from the Council of Europe, where it was charged with violating the rights of man.

The first postwar neo-fascist dictatorship in Europe was stigmatized and isolated morally and institutionally. The task remaining is to see to it that it is isolated politically, economically and militarily as well.

The resistance and the anti-dictatorship struggle of the Greek people, of Greeks abroad, of the world trade union and democratic forces, compel the junta to use tricks.

The junta's constitution has codified the fascist and anti-labor acts of the last 25 years in Greece.

The struggles of the Greek people have forced the dictatorship and the employers to some concessions. Minimum wage levels have been raised. Civil employes have won small increases.

Pensioners insured under the IKA social security fund have won a 12½% increase. A stubborn struggle is going on for the reinstatement of the employes who have been dismissed without cause, for an end to further sackings, for the improvement of safety and sanitary conditions, unemployment benefits, housing, etc.

May Day eve, 1969, was turned into an anti-junta demonstration when workers and employes at a mass outdoor meeting in Salonika burst out with slogans demanding democracy, trade union and democratic rights, liberty, "down with the junta."

In May, 1969, the colonels issued three new anti-labor laws: Compulsory Decrees 184, 185, 196, 1969. By means of these they wiped out the last remnants of trade union liberties.

For example, CD 186, 1969, provided that all elected trade union officials who had not worked at their professions for more than 100 days during the previous year and 600 days during the previous six years, were automatically dismissed, and lost the right of election to any trade union post.

JUNTA AGENTS

Thus, new officials were appointed to the GLCG. Another "New General Confederation of Labor of Greece" was resurrected (this ploy had been used before) to show that fascist Greece has more than one, and so competitive trade union confederations. The leaders of both are junta-appointed agents who serve its aims.

In spite of and against the will of the GCLG, 28 trade union federations representing over 500,000 workers and employes held a conference where they decided to oppose the colonels' plans to pool their insurance funds. The fascist government, temporarily forced to back down, has sent the question to the Ministerial Conucil for further consideration.

Good & welfare

The leaders & the myths

THAT WAS a disgusting performance the president of the letter carriers union put on last Sunday. James Rademacher went on nationwide television and accused the Students for a Democratic Society by name of causing the wave of strikes in the nation's post offices.

Now Rademacher is, no doubt, one of those union leaders who will sit you down and with judicial confidence explain how much in touch he is with the members of his union. If anyone had come to him months ago and suggested postal workers might go on strike for a decent wage he would have explained how the men and women in the stations didn't know what it was to strike, how most of them were young and don't remember the Air Force coming in to run the air-mail section during World War II.

Rademacher would most likely go on to some lengths about how a strike would have resulted in the leaders of the union going to jail and how the membership didn't want that and how the membership wouldn't care for the heavy fines that would be placed against the union.

Now after one week of wildcat striking has jolted the country and most labor observers, the union head further reveals how really out of touch he is with the feelings or thoughts of his membership. Postal workers throughout the country, ignoring his advice, have gone out everywhere and the picket lines are being manned by young and old, black white and Asian and Rademacher attributes this to a handful of "outside extremists." It's hard to get much further away from reality.

THE ATRIBUTION of the dramatic strike action to SDS is absurd to the point of farceness. So is any attempt to give the credit to any group on the Left. What's more it's condescending and insulting to the hundreds of thousands of workers who sort the mail and deliver it. To say that such men and women living on the chicken feed the union has been able to secure for them through the years will only strike when told to do so by outside agitators is to call them dumb.

But Rademacher is not the only union leader who believes, or pretends to believe, such myths about the complacent workers and the outside agitators. Not by a long shot. One can only wonder who they think they're fooling.

The workers know better and management knows better. About the only people having the wool pulled over their eyes are the public.

Months ago, big business' mouthpiece, Fortune magazine, had a whole issue about the restless rank and file of the country's unions. They went on to some lengths to decry the fact that "responsible" union leaders would be subjected to trial and travail by the members. The editors of Fortune didn't peddle any nonsense about "outside agitators" or try to nominate SDS as vanguard of the postal workers. Why should they? They want their readers to know the truth about the situation confronting them. Rademacher should want the same for the public.

THE UNION leader went further than merely suggesting SDS was leading the strikes. He said his charge was baseless; that he had no evidence. He went on to reveal he had asked the Post Office to conduct an investigation of the strike origins and suggested a Congressional probe to follow that one. Seldom in the history of the labor movement has a union leader openly called for the government to conduct a witchhunt in his own union.

But then when something thought to be under control suddenly slips out of control, human reactions are sometimes weird.

—CARL BLOICE

One who knows him writes:

Remember W. Robert Wells?

By JOHN McDONALD

In 1947, a man was sentenced to die in San Quentin's gas chamber.

The charge: Section 4500 of the Penal Code: more specifically, this man who was serving a life top, threw a cuspidor at a prison guard and drew blood, and the newly passed law provied that any prisoner serving life who drew blood on a guard or another prisoner could receive the death penalty.

This man was the first to be tried, convicted and sentenced to die under this law. This man was black.

The man is Wesley Robert Wells, known throughout the California prison system as "Bob" Wells.

The fact that he is alive today is due only to the efforts of the revolutionary left, the people, and such names as Dr. E. D. Haynes, Charles R. Garry and Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett.

Newspapers such as the Sun Reporter and the People's World also stand to the fore in this struggle, but it was the great masses of indignant citizens who brought to bear the pressure that forced then Governor Edwin G. Knight to commute Wells' sentence in 1954.

But what a commutation: "life without possibility of parole."

PAIN

Today, Wesley Robert Wells is 60 years old. His eyes are going bad, and he has spasms in his legs which are so excruciatingly painful that he will fall from an attack if there is nothing or no one to grab onto.

He cannot get a sitz bath or a heat lamp treatment to relieve his misery because the prison will not provide these "luxuries."

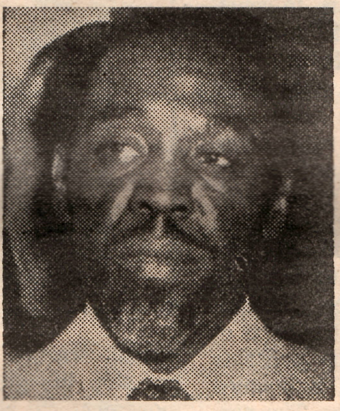
Nevertheless he is as active as his health will permit. He works with the SATH organization in San Quentin as a special advisor to the executive body, and he is heavily relied upon by inmates of all races for general counseling.

In fact, Bob's "caseload" is probably larger than all the so-called prison counselors put together.

Wells was born in Denver. His parents separated when he was very young, and his mother died a short time later.

In 1917, he and his two sisters came to the West Temple district of Los Angeles to live with their aunt, who Bob describes as "a well-meaning little woman, who really wasn't qualified mentally or emotionally to give the guidance, care and affection every child should have."

Referring to his early childhood, Wells says, "I grew up like a weed — wild. I knew nothing of a real home and all that it means. I've had to scuffle for myself for as long as I can remember."


WESLEY ROBERT WELLS
Excruciatingly painful.

At the age of 12, Bob got caught driving a car without the consent of the owner. During the probationary investigation the type of home life young Wells was living was brought to light.

After thorough consideration of the case, juvenile authorities concluded that it would be to the best interest of all concerned if young Wells was committed to the Whittier State Industrial School for "proper supervision."

After spending two years in the state school, Wells was released on parole — back into the same environment, back into the care of his well meaning, though ineffective, aunt — the same person the juvenile authorities had decided two years previously was unable to render proper supervision.

Soon afterwards, he was arrested again for the same offense and committed to Preston School of Industry for two more years.

Wells entered prison in 1928, to serve a term of one to five years for receiving stolen property (a couple of suits).

When he saw and experienced the abuse, degradation and injustice to which black prisoners were subjected, he was unable to passively accept it.

He had to voice his feelings. He had an altercation with, and killed, another convict. As a result, he ended up doing 12 years.

Wells wasn't out long before he was again picked up in a stolen car. He was returned to prison with another one-to-five year sentence.

In 1944, shortly before he was due to be released on parole, he was charged with possession of a knife in prison and sentenced to "five years" by the judge. The other inmate involved was not charged, even though he had threatened Wells' life and had made his possession of a knife a practical necessity.

Though the judge had said "five years" when he sentenced Wells, the sentence prescribed by the Penal Code was five years to life.

INTENT

It was obviously not the intent of the court to lay down this stiff a sentence. However, it was the relationship of this sentence to subsequent events in his life that had primary significance. It laid the groundwork for the death sentence he later received.

In 1947, while suffering from what the chief medical officer and the consulting psychiatrist of the prison diagnosed as a "state of tension" — brought on by years and years of cruel and inhuman treatment — Bob threw a cuspidor at one of several club-wielding guards who were bent upon breaking him, because he talked back, because he demanded that he be given a fair hearing before a disciplinary committee on an infraction of the rules.

The cuspidor hit the guard, and the long trial of a black man who fought back began, leading finally to a cell on San Quentin's death row from where he watched 52 of his comrades go to their deaths.

Though the guard was not seriously injured by the cuspidor, and was back on the job and hearty within a coupl weeks, Wesley Robert W was nevertheless condemned die in the gas chamber at Quentin, purportedly for saulting" the slightly inj guard.

The effects sitting in a on death row, receiving a to die on, then at the last ute getting a postponem could have on a man ca left to the imagination.

Some give up, some com suicide, some go mad. W fought every inch of the and came through an stronger person than the Wells who went to death ro

HOTBED OF RACISM

Bob's long sojourn in p is not the payment of a " to society." It is Bob's peren struggle against racism an justice that has caused hi do the amount of time he done. In a country where ra is institutionalized it is in able that the institutions d nated by the loci of power the purpose of preserving tablished social relations manifest these "social relati with a vengeance. The pr system is a hotbed of rac One of the early discipli actions taken against Bob serve as an example.

From a letter Bob wrot 1964 to Gov. Knight: "I had in prison only a short when I was charged with first infraction of prison ru it was for fighting with a oner for calling me a nigger were brought before Capt. penter, and I told him what fight was. Imagine, if you my great surprise, and sh when the captain said: " that's what you are isn't it

A MAN

Wells relates that this ex ence marked a turning poi his life. As he continues in letter, "I then and there solved that I would prove to captain — and indeed to whole prison world around that I was a man, a man could take unflinchingly thing, any punishment, abuse he or his guards c inflict upon me, and still

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On terror

The statement against terrorism issued by the Northern California district of the Communist party (PW, March 7) is interesting because it is generally correct for the wrong reasons.

It is correct insofar as it recognizes that terrorism by way of bombings and burnings discredits the radical movement in the very way the ruling class wants it to be discredited among the masses of people. And the statement is further correct insofar as it recognizes that individual or small-group terrorists "have no confidence in the white workers . . ."

The strange basis on which these assumptions — correct of themselves — rests are the ideas that "Today the working class in our country is on the verge of a mass development of socialist consciousness" and the "convergence" of several movements is "coming increasingly under the leadership of the working class."

If either of these ideas were correct, they would be the best argument one could find in favor of certain kinds of terrorism. That neither of them are correct is the best argument against terorism.

Terrorism is a useful, inevitable and proper revolutionary tool when there is a social base for it and under no other circumstances.

There is no social base for terrorism at this time. Those of us who are politically active among workers, and especially those of us engaged in trade union struggles, have noticed no "mass development of socialist consciousness."

Working people, as the CP statement notes, "are being pushed by all of the other social currents, and pressed by (their) own need(s) for job security." This has not, however, led to any verge of socialist consciousness. It has led to a great increase in trade union militancy at the bottom and to a widespread, but confused, suspicion that something is wrong somewhere. Working people only now are beginning to ask the questions. The answers have not yet suggested themselve. The Wallace campaign, with its wide streak of populism, was one example of this confusion.

The radical movement itself remains essentially divorced from the working class, although efforts are being made to correct this. The working class is not exercising leadership over the various social movements in America. Radicals who have either gone into or identify with the working class are beginning to exercise such leadership. The difference should be obvio

If, on the other hand, the w ing class were "on the verg socialist consciousness" an on, terrorism would no longe a debatable question. It w be a reality on a wider than it is now. Socialist ciousness — the realizatio varying degree that the ex pr ators must be expropriat does not simply consist of w ers sitting around saying, "Y I'm for that." It means a and when you have the r consciousness believe me, will get the practice.

The fact is, however, that kind of terrorism we are ex iencing today can only fur retard the development of cialist consciousness am working people.

Discussing a similar prob with the Socialist-Revolut aries, Lenin remarked, " 'E time a hero engages in si combat, this arouses in us a spirit of struggle and c age,' we are told. But we k

WORLD MAGAZINE
MARCH 28, 1970

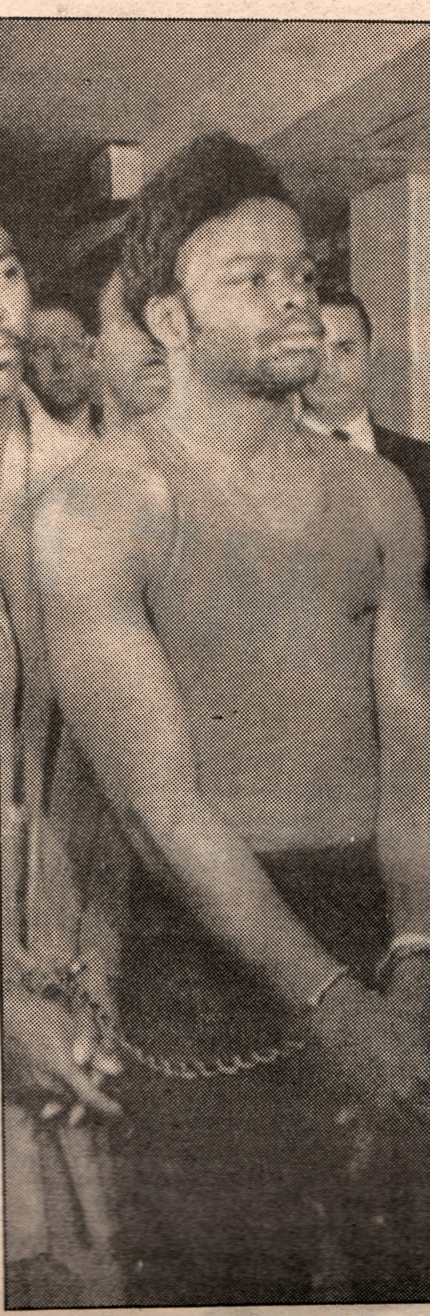
THE NATIONAL PASTIME?

To the men pictured here
baseball is hardly a pastime.
Mike Jay gives the scene a once-over
as the umpire gets set to shout "Play ball!"
Pages 6-7

CINCINNATI 19
NEW YORK 16
ASTROS
Phillies
McCOVEY

The Panthers state their case

Pages 2-3



Above, Los Angeles Black Panthers are arrested and chained after a police attack and, below, a demonstrator outside the Criminal Courts building in New York at the start of the current trial, which has been the scene of massive daily protests by supporters of the Black Panthers.

'WE REMAINED SILENT'

Should defendants be compelled to give the judge assurances about their behavior at a trial? Such a demand was made by New York Supreme Court Justice John M. Murtagh in the pre-trial hearings of 13 Panthers accused of conspiracy.

Under Murtagh's "formula for maintaining the dignity of the court," the defendants could virtually be held in jail for life. This issue is currently being appealed before the United States Supreme Court. Bail, ranging up to $100,000 for defendants, has only been raised for Mrs. Afeni Shakur.

Murtagh made his demand in late February and suspended the pre-trial hearing until he received a reply. The 13 defendants wrote a 24-page response to Murtagh's demand, which he rejected.

Murtagh's objection arose from the fact that the defendants had called out "All power to the people" when entering the court and frequently contradicted witnesses. In their statement, the defendants contend that it is impossible for black people to receive a fair trial in the United States.

The statement's signers are: Lumumba Abdul Shakur, Richard Moore (Analye Dharuba), Curtis Powell, Michael Tabor (Cetewayo), Robert Collier, Walter Johnson (Baba Odinga), Afeni Shakur, John J. Casson (Ali Bey Hassan), Alex McKiever (Catarra), Clark Squire, Joan Bird, Lee Roper, William King (Kinshasa).

Originally, 21 persons were arrested and charged. Eight have been severed from the case for various reasons, but the case is still referred to as the Panther 21.

Printed here is a section of the statement dealing with the political aspects of the trial.

Let us clear up one basic misconception. You constantly refer to this case as a "criminal" trial, while all of the time we **know,** you **know,** Frank Hogan knows, the people know, the other prisoners and even the guards know that this is **not** a criminal trial. Everyone knows that this is a political trial, for if we were not members of the Black Panther Party, a lot of things would never have been done to us in the first place.

Why are we not allowed to be with other prisoners? Why are we not allowed to even talk to the other prisoners? Why are we isolated? (Something we might say or do that can open their eyes, perhaps?) Alleged murderers and rapists are not treated in this manner, even "convicted" murderers and rapists are not treated in the manner in which we were treated. Why do you persist in the big lie? It is one of many clear contradictions.

On April 2, 1969, hordes of "police" broke down our doors, or otherwise forced entry into our homes, and ran amuk. Rampaging and rummaging through our homes, they seized articles from us with wild abandon while having no search warrants. The "police" put us and our families in grave danger, nervously aiming shotguns, rifles and pistols at us and our families — even our children.

We were then kidnapped as were some of our families. We state "kidnap" because many of us were never shown any arrest warrant, even to this day. This is illegal. This is a blatant contradiction of your own Constitution. . . .We said nothing.

Upon the arrest of **some** of the defendants and before the appearance of any of the defendants, New York City District Attorney Frank Hogan appeared on local and national radio and television (Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, and 11) in a press conference, during which time he gave out information from an "indictment" against us in an inflammatory and provocative manner, deliberately designed to incite the people against us and to deny us even the semblance of a "fair trial." Mr. Hogan implied a lie — that we had been seized on the way to commit these alleged acts with bombs in our hands — rather than the truth — that we had no bombs and that most of us were taken out of our beds.

Subsequent to that press conference, "unidentified police sources" and "persons close to the investigation" stated falsely to the press that we, as members of the Black Panther Party, were being aided and abetted by foreign governments considered hostile to your government (i.e. Cuba and China) — that we, as Black Panther Party members, were stealing money from federal and/or state agencies and many other false wild charges, designed to heighten the public alarm against us and our Party, rather than diminish it, so as to create an atmosphere conducive to the extermination of the Black Panther Party and justify anything that might be done to us.

This unethical behavior gave, aided, and abetted further prejudicial pre-trial publicity, in direct contradiction to your law as outlined in the 14th Amendment of your Constitution of the United States. Due to this behavior alone, we are positive that we could not get a fair trial anywhere in this country. . . .We still said nothing.

●

When our attorneys learned of our arrest, they attempted to see us, as we were being held in your District Attorney's office. They were refused permission to do so. At the "arraignment" a similar request by our counsel was again refused by Mr. Charles Marks who presided thereat. These refusals were in blatant violation of your law as outlined in the 6th and 14th Amendments of your Constitution of the United States. . . .We continued to be silent.

At this "arraignment," this Mr. Charles Marks, who was presiding, refused to read, explain or give us a copy of this "indictment" against us. This is another violation of your law as outlined in the 6th and 14th Amendments of your Constitution of the United States . . . yet, we remained silent.

Bail (ransom) was set at $100,000, which is ridiculous and tantamount to no bail at all. This is another violation of your own law as outlined in the 8th and 14th Amendments of your Constitution of the United States. We state that this bail is not only contradictory to your own law, but that it is also racist. When white "radical" groups are arrested, their bails do not usually exceed $10,000. When three Yemenites were charged with "conspiracy" to murder your President Nixon, and with the equipment to do such, their bail was $25,000; when Minutemen in New York were arrested and charged with a conspiracy to commit murder, the murder of 155 persons, and were arrested with bombs and guns more than enough to do this, bail was set at $25,000. We had no bombs. Our bail was $100,000. . . .We remained silent.

At this arraignment, this Mr. Charles Marks, the same "Judge" who is alleged to have signed the "Arrest Warrants," stated in words or substance that he was accepting all of the allegations in the "indictment" against us to be true. On subsequent hearings during April and

Above, San Francisco police stand guard after a large crowd of demonstrators gathered to protest the raid on Black Panther headquarters; below, New York Black Panthers march across 42nd St. to the United Nations in protest against the murders and arrests of party members.

ALL POWER to the PEOP

May 1969, concerning reduction of ransom (bail) at which this same Mr. Marks still presided, he stated that we were "un-American" and that the law "did not apply to us" (sounds of history?). This does not quite show impartiality. . . .Yet, we said nothing.

Our counsel have been in front of at least 35 "Judges" concerning our bail, and this attitude permeates the "great American system of justice." All motions on this were denied, either without comment or because of the "seriousness" of the "charges," but **never** dealing with the Constitutional issues involved, and it is **your** Constitution. All of this seems to underlie "Judge" Marks' remarks . . . . Yet, we said nothing.

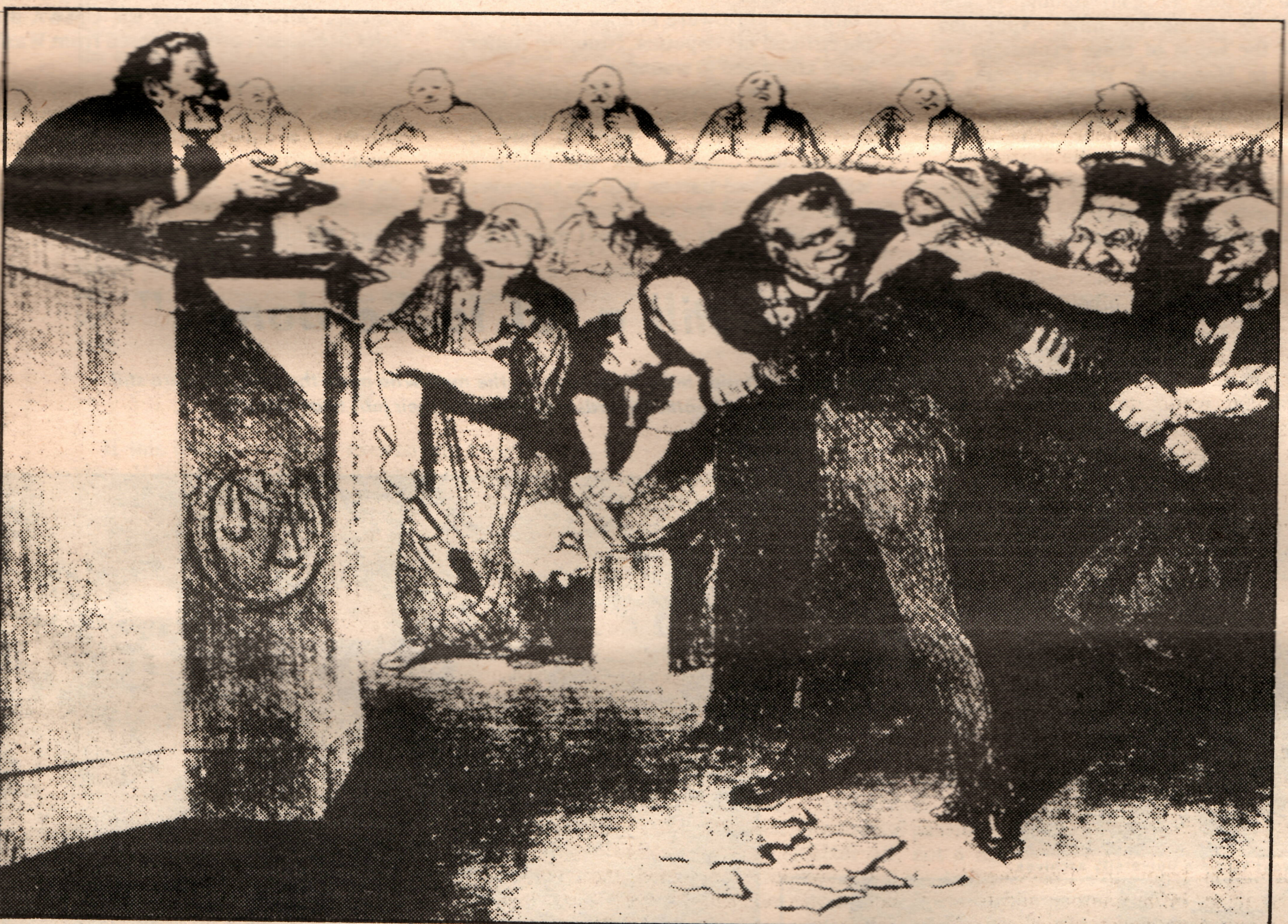
●

We have been treated like animals — in fact, like less than animals. On January 17, 1969, Miss Joan Bird was kidnapped, beaten, tortured. She was punched and beaten, given the "Thumb Torture," hung upside down by the ankle from out of a third-story window of a "Police Precinct." On April 2-3, 1969, some of us were beaten as we were being kidnapped. From April 2, 1969, all of us were placed under constant abuse and harassment, which included 24-hour lock-in, complete isolation, no library or recreation, lights kept on in our cells for 24 hours, physical assaults, deprivations of seeing our families, at times denied mattresses, medication, sheets, showers, pillow-cases, towels, soap, toothpaste, and toilet paper.

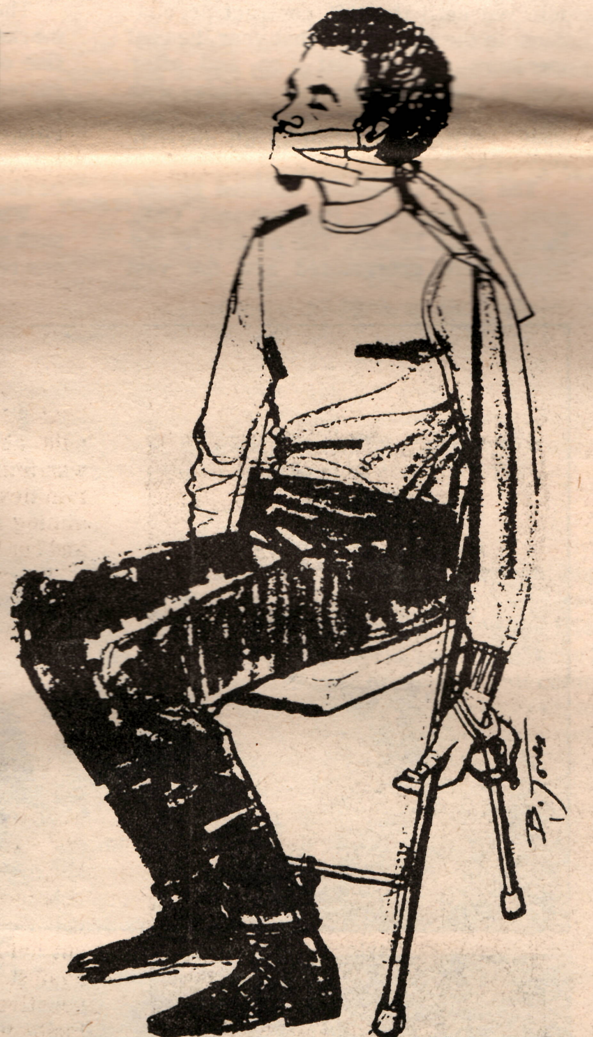
Our families have suffered abuse in visiting us, and mental anguish. One of us suffered the loss of a child because of this. Some of our families had to go on welfare because of our outrageous incarceration and ransom. We were denied mail, even from our attorneys — denied access to consult all together with our attorneys. We have been subjected to the most onerous and barbaric of jail conditions. The objective of all this was our psychological and physical destruction during our pre-trial detention.

As NEWSWEEK Magazine even states, ". . .the handling of the suspects between their arrest and their trial was something less than a model of American criminal justice," and "none of it was very becoming to the state. . . ." (How well we know.) All this is a blatant violation of your own law as outlined in the 8th and 14th Amendments of your own Federal Constitutionm . . .Yet, we **still** remained silent.

From satire to reality



"You have the floor, explain yourself."



United Press International

If this were a quiz we'd ask you to identify the following quotation:

"Since it was obvious that they had no chance against a stacked jury, the prisoners used every obstructionist tactic they could invoke, including outcry and noise which frequently broke up the sessions and which delayed the conclusion of the trial for 9 months. Their tactic of disorder was one they would not willingly have chosen — for these were men of training, intelligence, and ability — but one which was imposed upon them by the gag rule of their judges."

If you guessed that it refers to the pre-trial hearings of 13 Black Panthers in N.Y., or to the trial of Bobby Seale in Chicago, you are wrong. It is from a book titled **Daumier and His World,** by Howard P. Vincent (Northwestern University Press, 1968), and it pertains to the trial in 1835 of 121 Republican leaders in Paris, who were accused of fomenting the April 1834 riots in France. The men were illegally removed from their own provinces to be tried in Paris, a violation of the Charter (France's Constitution), which proclaimed that "no one shall be withdrawn from his natural judges" for trial.

The parallel between the Panthers and the French Republicans becomes stronger with this excerpt from Vincent's book:

"The prisoners realized that they were being railroaded, that this was not a legal trial so much as a political one, and that Juste-Milieu (the legal establishment — Editors) was trying to break up a party rather than to enforce laws."

On the left is a cartoon of that trial drawn by Honore Daumier on May 14, 1835. On the right is a drawing of Bobby Seale in the Chicago courtroon during his "conspiracy" trial.

April 1 — day of victory and rededication

By HARRY SHAW

MORGANTOWN, W. VA.

April 1 is one of the great holidays of the U.S. labor movement. And it is a day of special significance to the coal miners; it marks their winning of the eight-hour workday.

The miners' contract would come up for renewal on April 1 and, as one retired miner from Western Pennsylvania told us, "Our slogan was 'no contract, no coal.' "

"April 1," said another, "That's the miners' vacation day. If the operators didn't sign the contract by April 1 then we didn't work."

From the days of its founding in 1890 the United Mine Workers declared its determination to win the eight-hour workday. The American Federation of Labor, with whom the UMWA was affiliated, and the national board of the UMWA decided that May 1, 1891, would be the day for inaugurating the eight-hour workday in the mines. This decision was later reversed, however, because of the cost of strike relief that year and because many coal fields were not well organized.

Action on the eight-hour workday was deferred until the 1898 contract negotiations. In the agreement that year the coal operators agreed that "on and after April 1, 1898, the eight-hour workday with eight hours pay, consisting of six-day per week, shall be in effect in all districts represented. . . ."

The joint agreement covered bituminous coal miners in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. The anthracite districts were unorganized and the vast coal-fields of West Virginia were not affected by the contract. The West Virginia operators refused to participate in joint negotiations with other operators. The thick veins of coal and lack of organization of labor gave West Virginia operators an advantage over northern competition. They could work the miners longer hours and pay them at a lower rate.

The miserable living conditions in the coal-camps are well known to anyone acquainted with coal-mining: the company town with its gun-thugs, the company store which charged four times normal prices, and the system of paying scrip so that the coal miner never had any money if he wished to leave the coal camp. Wages were incredibly low, and it was not uncommon for the coal miner to owe the company money after he had worked 12 hours a day, 6 days a week.

Conditions in the mines were outrageous. Roof falls were a daily occurrence. The men lucky enough to escape death were often permanently disabled with broken backs or loss of limbs. When such a tragedy occurred the disabled miner and his family were given 24 hours to move off company property.

The history of coal mining is also marked by numerous mine explosions. One of the worst of these explosions occurred in Monongah, West Virginia, on December 6, 1907, where 361 men were killed. The main street of Monongah was turned into a morgue so the bodies could be identified.

When the miners fought back against such murder and exploitation the coal barons responded with ruthless violence. On September 10, 1897, a group of unarmed miners marching from Hazelton to Latimer in the anthracite fields of Eastern Pennsylvania to protest high prices at the company store were gunned down by the sheriff and his deputies. Nineteen miners were killed and 40 wounded.

In the long history of atrocities committed by the coal barons the massacre at Ludlow, Colorado, on April 20, 1914, by Rockefeller thugs shows the extent to which the coal barons will go to prevent organization of the coal miners. They set fire to a tent city where coal miners and their family were living, and drove through shooting into the burning tents, killing women and children.

We asked a disabled miner from Morgantown, West Virginia, if the struggle was worth it. "Sure! If it wasn't for the UMWA nothing would have changed in the mines. I've been able to put my kids through school. I have my own house, a car. Without the union I would never have been able to do that."

He said, however, that there was still a lot to be done. He pointed to the Farmington disaster of 1968 and to his own injury to make his point.

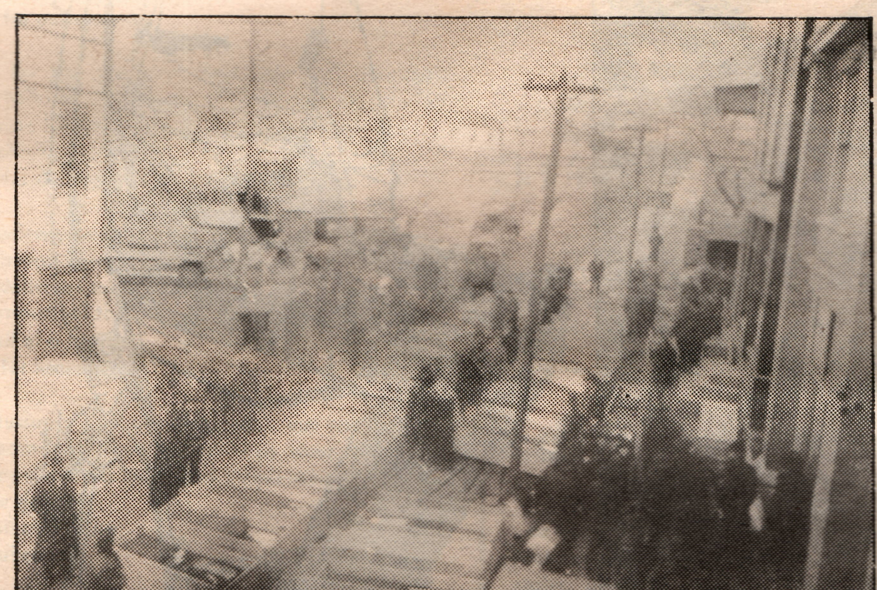
Despite the evolvement of a strong union, there is still a need for solidarity and a rank-and-file movement to counter the fortunes of the coal barons. The power of a united rank-and-file has been illustrated by the success of the work stoppage of West Virginia coal miners fighting for a decent "black lung" compensation law. The new federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Bill would never have been passed without the threat of a nationwide walkout of coal miners.

The miners are now applying these lessons to the internal activity of their union. They are forming a rank-and-file movement to restore democracy to the UMWA. All but three of the UMWA district presidents are appointed from Washington.

The miners know that the only force powerful enough to challenge the coal barons is a united, militant, democratic union. April 1 is not just a day to celebrate past victories; it is also a day on which coal miners dedicate themselves to continue this life-and-death struggle.

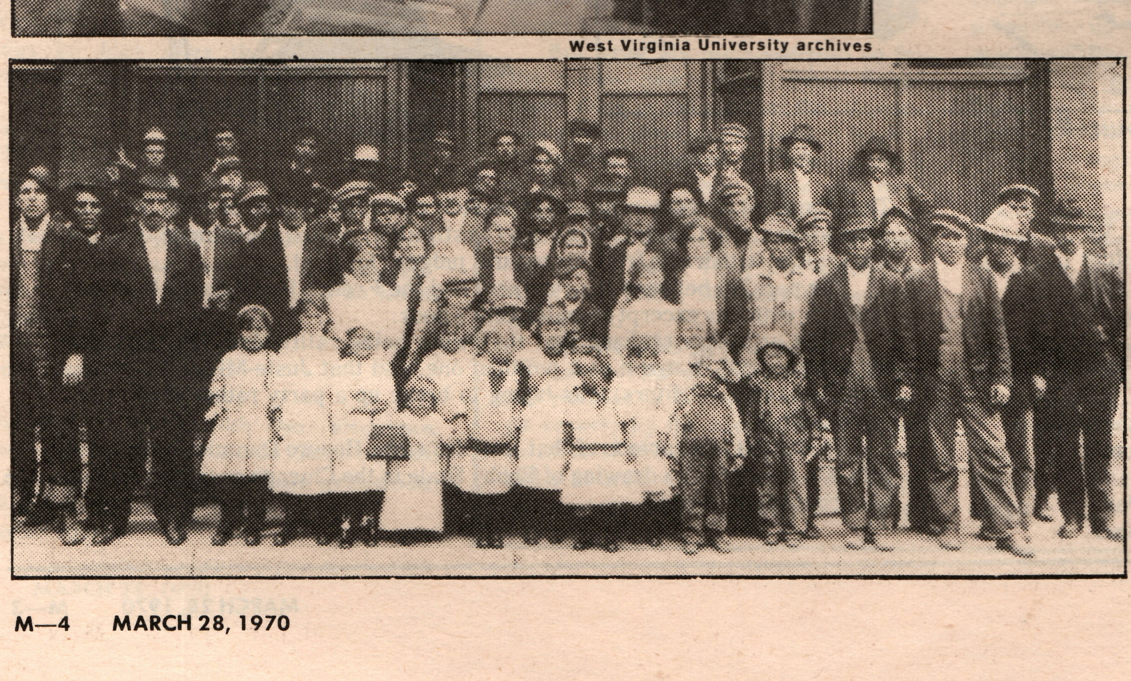
"there is still a lot to be done..."

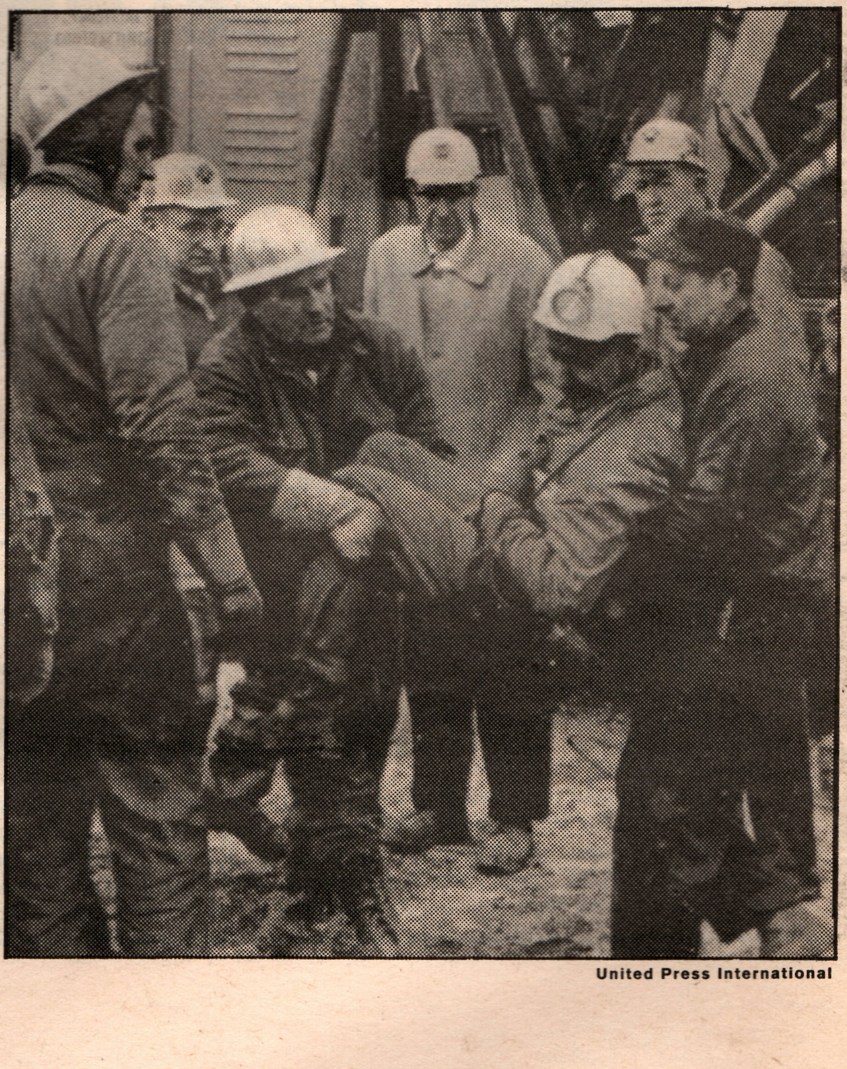
Though many victories have been won by the men who mine the coal, they are still threatened by explosions, health hazards and by loss of their jobs to automation.



West Virginia University archives

At left: After the 1907 Monongah disaster. Below: Refugees of the Ludlow tent colony. Right: Injured miner being carried out after the Nov. 1968 explosion in Farmington, W. Va.





United Press International

In what cause did they die?

By ART SHIELDS

> ## Aboard a death ship
>
> *Resentment about the disregard for human life is mounting among the men who go to sea. On March 15, the Defense Department announced that the S.S. Columbia Eagle had been taken over by two members of her crew and diverted to Cambodian waters. The 7,500-ton ship, under military charter, was loaded with 500-pound and 750-pound bombs and other ammunition bound for Thailand.*
>
> *The Defense Department reported that the ship had been taken over by two armed men who then sought asylum in Cambodia. Of the ship's 39-man crew, 24 abandoned the ship on lifeboats and were subsequently rescued by another American munitions ship.*

The 14 men on this page were left out of the weekly war death reports. Yet they died in the Vietnam war with 12 other men on their ship. This cannot be denied by Defense Secretary Melvin Laird and President Richard Nixon.

They were sailing a death ship — the S.S. Badger State. It was loaded with 8,900 bombs and rockets, chock full of TNT. Many 2,000-pounders were among them. They were bound for the U.S. Air Force Base at Da Nang. And B-52 pilots were waiting to drop them on the people of South Vietnam when the ship blew up at sea. Only 14 men survived.

The victims are war dead, whom the Government cares little about. They had no military status. They were only merchant seamen, sailing under union contract. And they would not get military funerals if their bodies were found.

Their bodies, however, will never be found. They are buried three miles deep in the blue Pacific.

They went down the morning after Christmas, but until now the facts have not all come out. And I'm writing this story to show how working seamen and their widows and orphans are treated by the men who run this detestable war.

I found, when I looked into the facts, that the Pentagon values the life of a merchant seaman at only half the price of the life of a Navy man. I got this answer from a spokesman of the Navy's office of "Deaths and Funerals." "Every one of our men on active duty is automatically insured for $10,000," he told me.

But the widow of a merchant seaman, who died in the war, gets only $5,000, while the bomb merchants get millions. Nor will the government do anything for the widows and orphans after the $5,000 is gone — and it will go rather quickly.

"We're glad to say that most of the victims' families will survive a while longer because the husbands and fathers were union men. They will get a second $5,000 from the Group Life policies of the Welfare Plan of the National Maritime Union. But these policies, of course, were financed by the dues of the dead seamen and their union borthers — and not by the government and shipowners.

Four families, however, are losing both payments because their men failed to fill out the names of beneficiaries before the disaster. This may have been due to misunderstandings. English was not the native language of some crew members. Thus a second tragedy hits many children.

●

But what did the widows and orphans get from the shipowner? The answer is nothing.

The Badger State was owned by the States Marine Lines of 90 Broad Street, New York City. This is a big shipping outfit. It profits from wars and officials were very secretive when I sought information. But I learned that the company risked nothing in the death voyage. The ship was leased to the Military Sea Transportation Service, an arm of the Pentagon, at a fat charter fee. And it was covered by insurance when it went down.

This is an old story. Seamen and soldiers die while shipowners and bomb merchants — the war profiteers — play it safe. The company knew it was gambling with the lives of the seamen when it took the charter money. For the Badger State was unstable and unsafe.

"I feared for my life in sailing on that ship," said Steven Bordash, an engineer, and a member of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, one of the survivors. "I did it against my better judgement," the engineer told a Coast Guard hearing in Seattle. He was worried, he said, by the "vicious rolling" of the Badger State on a previous trip.

Many members of the crew, however, didn't know the dangers they were running. They were sailing on the Badger State for the first time when it left the Naval Ammunition Base at Bangor, Wash. They had gotten no warnings from the Military Sea Transportation Service or the States Marine Lines. And they did not worry much until the ship ran into heavy seas about 600 miles north of Midway Island.

That was Christmas night. The Badger State was rolling viciously. Giant waves were splashing over the sides, and Captain Charles Wilson sent the crew into the hold to check the bomb cargo.

Everything seemed safe. But the rolling increased. And at 4 a.m. on December 26, as the watches were changing, the wooden bomb crates were smashed and, according to the NMU magazine, **The Pilot**, the sailors reported that "the bombs were rolling around in the hold like mad."

One 2,000-pounder was the wildest of all. It was rolling from side to side like a crazy elephant. Brave seamen, risking their lives, tried to block it. They threw mattresses, life jackets, mooring lines and beds in the giant's way.

Five hours later a bomb exploded in Number Five hatch. The hold filled with smoke. Flames shot up. The abandon ship signal was sounded.

●

The situation seemed almost hopeless. One lifeboat had been wrecked by pounding seas hours before. Another got over the side and was washed against the ship when a bomb leaped out of a hole in the hull that the explosion had made. The bomb was a 2,000-pounder. It crashed into a lifeboat that was filled with 14 men, crushing some of them to death. The rest were spilled into the raging seas as the lifeboat capsized.

Five men, who remained on the burning ship to launch the life boat, cast themselves into the waves. But only Captain Wilson, the Third Mate and Samuel Kanealo, a fireman-watertender, survived.

The waves were forty feet high, men said, and the sea was full of mariners fighting for their lives as a Greek ship, the Khian Star, came up and began saving survivers.

The task was very difficult. No lifeboat could be launched, and the waves kept washing men away as they tried to grab the "jacob's ladder" hanging over the side. And men told how Richard Hughes, the young bosun, a former NMU patrolman in San Francisco, was knocked off the ladder by a wave as helping hands were reaching for him. He was not seen again.

The Badger State survivors also hailed the courage of a Greek seaman, Kontzilakis Ioanis, who tied a line round his waist and plunged into furious seas after a floating seaman. But when the rescuer grabbed the body it was dead.

By this time some Air Force planes were dropping small life rafts into the stormy waters. They had been summoned by Captain Wilson before the explosion. George Henderson, an American able seaman, pulled a half dozen men into a raft.

But life rafts are clumsy craft in rough weather. Some men couldn't be saved. And Electrician Konstantinis Pountalis, a Greek-American, who had been swimming two hours in the icy water with a deep gash in his head, was washed away as men tried to save him.

●

The swimmers were facing another — and unexpected — peril meanwhile. It came from the goonie birds, those junior members of the albatross family. The albatross is supposed to bring luck to seamen, as every reader of The Ancient Mariner knows. But his cousins, the goonies, are fierce, hungry fellows with long savage beaks. And they attacked the swimming seamen.

"The goonies hit us as soon as we were in the water," one survivor said. "They went after men who were too weak to defend themselves. And after we were rescued we saw them attacking the bodies." Other men told the same story.

The survivors were met in Yokohama by NMU representatives, who put them up in good hotels and helped in many ways. But I have some questions about a statement that the **NMU Pilot** made about the men who died.

The Pilot said — "They could have stayed shoreside in a rich, prosperous and comfortable country. Instead they chose the rigors and dangers of a wartime sealift. Their choice led them to death.

"It also led them to honor."

It seems to me that **The Pilot** accepts the myth that shoreside workers enjoy the benefits of the so-called "affluent society." I'm sure that the black workers on this page —and most of the rest — would disagree.

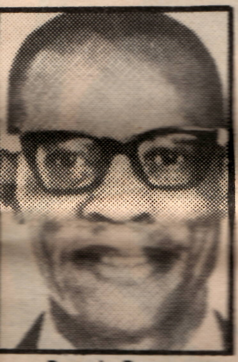
And I'm wondering what kind of "honor" our Government is paying the dead men when it gives their widows and orphans only $5,000.

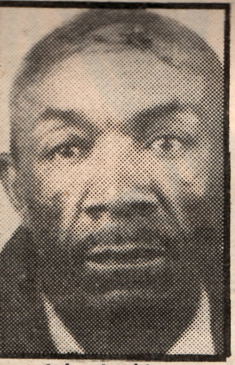
That's a question for President Joe Curran of the NMU to think about as he supports the Vietnam war.

John Kaleiwahea

Jose Rodreguez

Calvin Smith


Bennie Brown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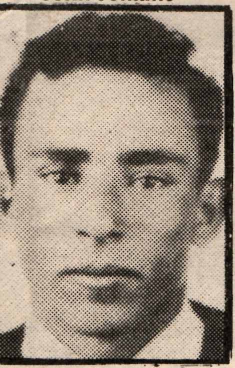
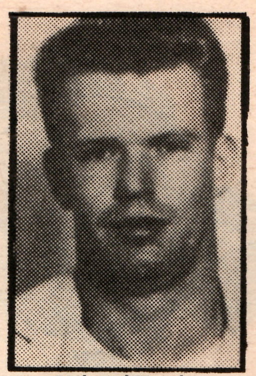
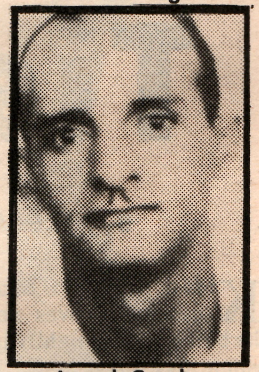

Ali Abda Gazaly

Edwin Jones

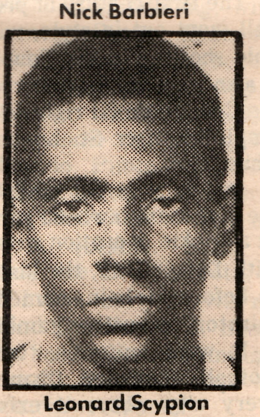

Richard Hughes


Joseph Candos

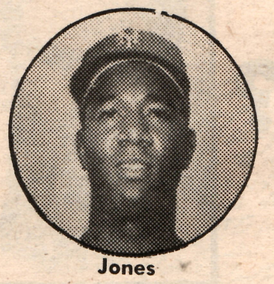
Nelson Fabre

Francisco Nunez

Nick Barbieri


Leonard Scypion

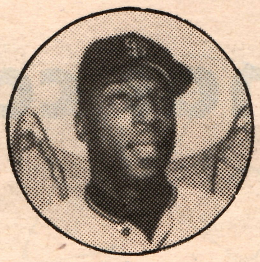
Mohamed Al-Muwallad

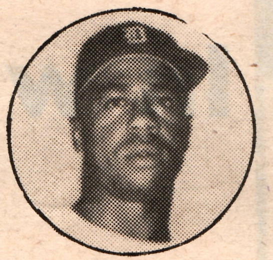

Jones

Robinson

Aaron

Stottlemyre


McCovey


Horton

Allen

Tis spring, tis life, tis

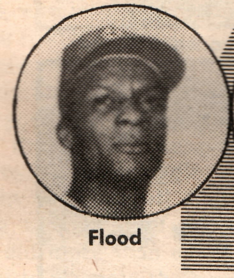
By MIKE JAY

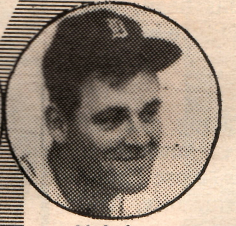
Kids across the U.S. are sleeping with baseball gloves under their beds, the ball wrapped tightly inside the leather which has been tenderly treated with neats foot oil, all the better to form a pocket with. The baseball season is upon us.

The childhood innocence depicted above would have more of a touch of reality to it if the glove was a Curt Flood model, or even a Denny McLain.

Now entering its 101st year, professional baseball faces an uncertain future. The 24 team owners continue to try to run their empire as in the days of old, pretending that baseball is something separate and apart from the real world outside the ballparks. But their efforts are increasingly in vain.

Their game, which is the business of making as much money as possible, has little to do with a ballgame. In fact, it is increasingly interfering, as the recent crisis of the Seattle Pilots has pointed out.


Flood


McLain

The first century of professional baseball went out in style, with the remarkable showing of the New York Mets, but it also went out with Curt Flood suing for his Constitutional right to choose his own employer after St. Louis traded him to Philadelphia.

And it went out with Denny McLain, the last man to win 30 games, implicated in a bookie operation with mobsters, and with Dizzy Dean, the last pitcher to win 30 before McLain, named as a "co-conspirator" in another gambling probe.

It went out, too, with professional football achieving financial success in every city where it exists while more than a few of the big league baseball teams are having trouble getting fans into the park.

It went out plagued, as it always has been, by the curse of racism which still keeps black men from managerial posts and front office jobs, and is known to be a factor in causing division and antagonism on several teams.

As this is being written, the players of all 24 teams are contemplating a general strike that would delay the start of the season if the owners don't come to terms over the Basic Agreement that governs all major league teams.

More and more of today's professional ballplayers are educated and hip to the world outside. When Florida Governor Claude Kirk, joined by Mets' chairman of the board M. Donald Grant, attempted to praise the Met players as the clean-cut answer to the hippies and peaceniks, pitcher Tug McGraw flashed a peace sign. Outfielder Ron Swoboda clowned. And mound ace Tom Seaver later said he was embarrassed and disturbed.

Yet, despite all of the problems, despite the arrogance, cynicism, greed and stupidity of the club owners, it remains a popular sport. It will likely outlast the system under which it is currently operating to come back stronger than ever as the National Pastime. This is no idle talk. Baseball in Cuba is more popular than ever now, a decade after the professional system was abolished. It can happen here.

It remains popular now because of its strengths as a sport that generates its own unique excitement and because it is easy to watch the players on the field without thinking about who is in the front office running the show and counting the profits.

With all this in mind, let's take a brief look at the teams and how they may be expected to fare in the coming season:

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EASTERN DVISION

NEW YORK METS — Last year was no accident. Mets could repeat, but strong showings by Seaver, Koosman, Agee and Jones are again a must. Third base strengthened with addition of Joe Foy. Solid pitching will be key if the Mets are to repeat. Still lack big home run hitter.

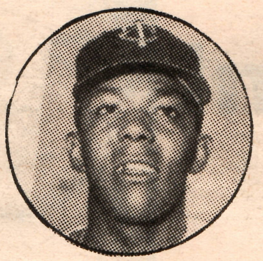
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Richie Allen should be big help. Pitching a problem after Gibson and Carlton but there are some promising youngsters. Solid hitting with Allen, Brock and Torre. Cards should be close, could take it all.

CHICAGO CUBS — Basically the same team as last year. Veterans a year older,

Santo

Robinson

Rose

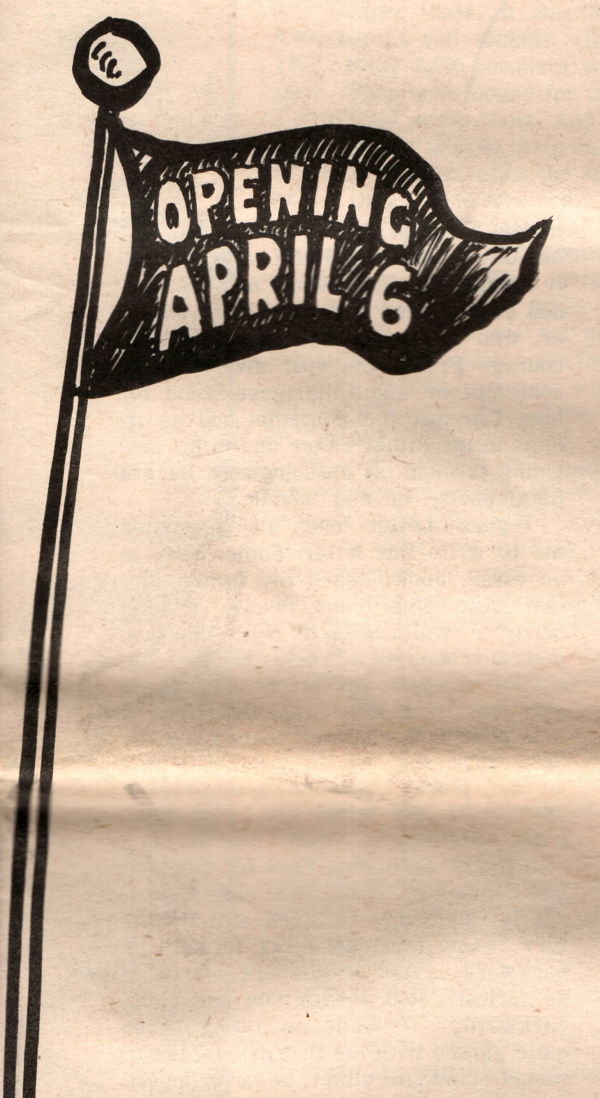


Oliva

Davis

Yastrzemski

baseball



some, like Banks, possibly slower. Last year's fold-up largely fault of manager Leo Durocher, who is again at helm. Cubs could surprise but guess here is that they'll slip a bit.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Tremendous offense with Clemente, Stargell, Oliver and Alou. Pitching a problem. Strong season for Veale a must, but still too many question marks on the mound. If pitching comes through, Pirates could take it all. This is one of the clubs hurt by racism. Return of manager Murtaugh probably no help in that department.

MONTREAL EXPOS — Good hitting with Staub, Laboy, Phillips and Jones. Addition of Fairly should help. Pitching still big problem, with only moderate improvements made in off season. Expos could get out of the cellar, though, since Phils may be worse off.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — They traded Allen but didn't get Flood. McCarver hardly enough to make up for it. Good young players like Money and Hisle still picking up experience. Not much power and only a so-so pitching staff. Front office has earned contempt of the players. New pilot Frank Lucchesi has tough job.

WESTERN DIVISION

CINCINNATI REDS — Awesome hitting with Rose, Bench, Johnson, Perez and May. Pitching o.k. if Maloney and Nolan, injured much of last season, come back strong. New manager, Sparky Anderson, a question mark. Reds need only so-so pitching to go all the way, and they'll probably get it.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Last year's divisional winners still strong threat. Gave up Alou to improve mound staff, which needed it. Aaron, Gonzales, Carty, Cepeda and Boyer give sound attack. Pitching still questionable beyond Niekro.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Another tough team in tough division. If Pepitone comes through, very good chance to take it. Big home run team with Pepi and Wynn. Pitching erratic but potentially good with Wilson and Dierker leading staff. Astros should be close.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Still another threat to take division with good pitching of Osteen, Singer and Sutton and offense led by Davis and Mota. Lack long ball threat. Good field with Wills and Mod Squad. Need breaks.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Mays another year older. Hart a question mark. McCovey and Bonds pace otherwise unimpressive offense, Marichal and Perry the pitching. Greatness surrounded by mediocrity. Suspicion here is for SF to slip from last year's second place finish.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Expansion team reminiscent of the old Mets should improve on last year's efforts, but not enough to leave basement. Shaky mound staff with some potential in Santorini. Ron Herbel may help. Brown and Ferrara head limp attack.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EASTERN DIVISION

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Best on paper. Frank and Brooks Robinson, Powell, Blair and Buford all back and hunting for revenge on Mets. McNally, Cuellar and Palmer head fine mound staff. Birds will be hard to shoot down.

BOSTON RED SOX — New manager Kasko should help here. Lonborg back, showed good spring form. Lots of pitching talent with Santiago, Culp, Lyle, Romo, Stange and Peters. Yaz, Smith and Conigliaro lead strong attack. Bosox rate an outside chance to upset.

WASHINGTON SENATORS — Ted Williams outstanding manager who helps the hitters. Howard and Epstein not enough in otherwise weak offense. Pitching only fair, but Senators are young and improving and upward bound.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Best Yankee team (on paper) in several years. New acquisitions Ward, Cater and Blefary could help offense. Good seasons from Murcer, White and Clark will help. Excellent mound staff headed by Mel Stottlemyre. Yanks could finish higher if they put it together.

DETROIT TIGERS — Chances ruined with McLain suspension. Internal division, racist management and lousy front office a big factor here. Morale low. Kaline and Cash old. Lolich now best hurler. Horton and Northrup good hitters, but there's too much working against the Bengals this year.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Last year's cellar dwellers should repeat under the misdirection of Alvin Dark. Pinson should help offense. Chance could help mound staff. Good year from Harrelson may help, but too many "ifs" here.

WESTERN DIVISION

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Strong young team with Jackson, Monday, Bando, Campaneris and Green. Felipe Alou should be big stabilizer. Pitching fine with Odom, Dobson, Hunter and perhaps Al Downing starting. Good bullpen. A pennant for Finley?

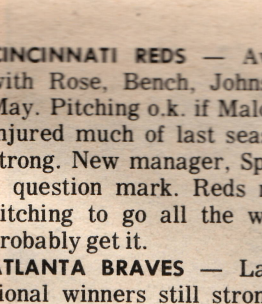
MINNESOTA TWINS — Managerial shake-up will hurt. Rigney has never won. Super hitting with Killebrew, Oliva, Carew and Reese. Potentially good mound staff with Boswell, Perry, Kaat and Tiant. Still big threat.

CALIFORNIA ANGELS — Players dislike manager Phillips, which could mean low finish, but they played .500 with him at helm in second half last year. Good potential with Reichardt, Johnstone, Ruiz and Johnson. Spotty pitching, but Tatum one of best reliefers now playing.

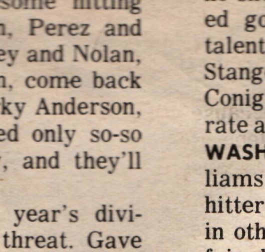
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — May, Williams and Bradford pace otherwise nothing attack. Melton a home run threat. Pitching is mixed bag of veterans and newcomers with John and Horlen about the best of the former and Wynne, Johnson and Edmundson look good among the latter. Sox could finish higher, but not much.

SEATTLE PILOTS — Or is it the Milwaukee Brewers by now? Either way it figures to be a tough season for this expansion club. Biggest problem is pitching, with some promise among Pattin, Brabender and newly acquired Bob Bolin. Look for ex-Met Greg Goossen to have big year at plate. Mincher, Rollins, Hegan and Comer may come through with hitting and, if they do, Pilots could be trouble even though they aren't contenders.

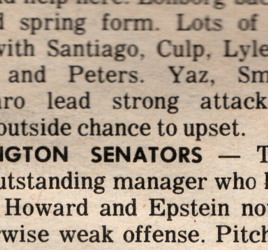
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — New manager Metro is a question mark. Royals traded away Joe Foy to Mets; he was leading RBI man last year. Not much offense beyond Lou Pinniella. Bunker and Drabowsky head otherwise unimpressive pitching staff. Barring surprises, KC likely basement occupants.



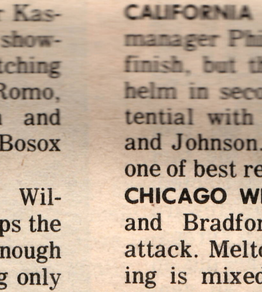
Howard



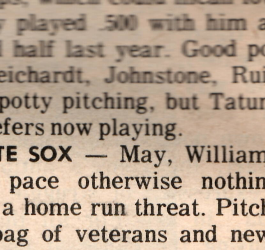
Clemente



Killebrew

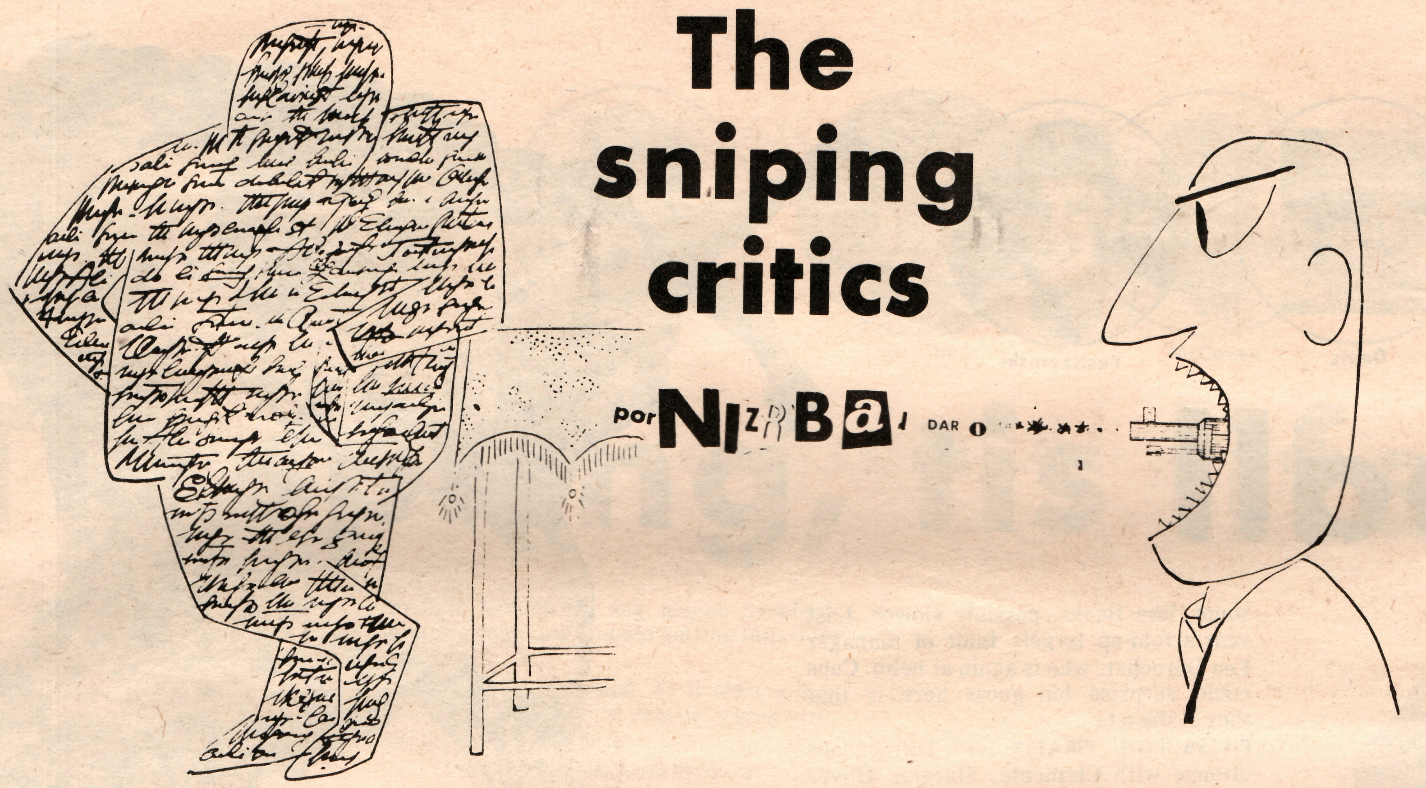


Seaver



Conigliaro

The sniping critics



We received this letter in response to our article by Walter Lowenfels about black poets.

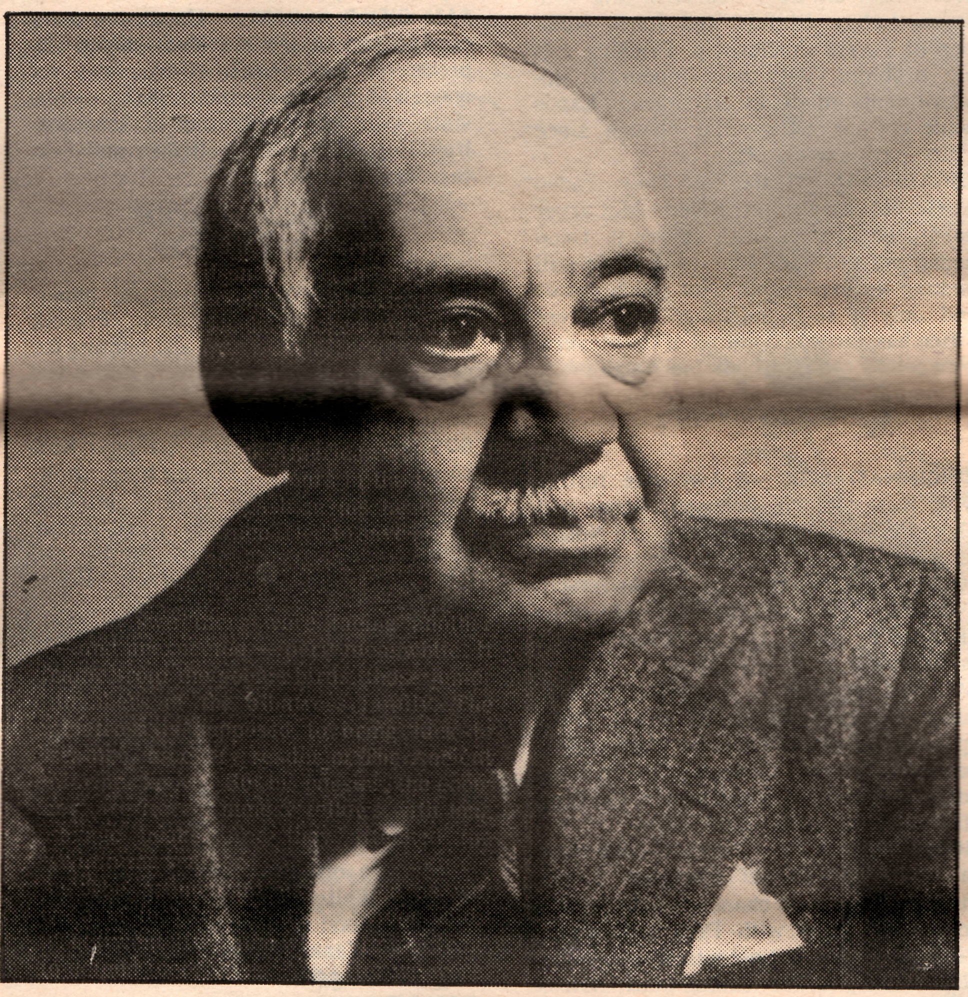
By ARNOLD D. BRAITHWAITE

I read with great interest Walter Lowenfels' article on The Invisible Poets in your February 21st magazine section. I wholeheartedly endorse his accusations against those literary snobs, the self-appointed arbiters of poesy, the ivory-towered critics and poets whose only intercourse with reality is what they have with the Maddox Ax Handle school of race relations which they warmly embrace.

My father, William Stanley Braithwaite, poet, critic and anthologist, a founder of the New England Poetry Society, and a long-time member of the American Poetry Society, was a prominent figure in influential literary circles during the first half of this century.

He was also black, which set him apart from the others despite the fact his own poetry and criticism reflected, in part, the genre's antipathy toward the expression of struggle and "propaganda" in art. For all that he did in espousing the cause of poetry, in general, he did more than any other single individual to promote the works of black poets, in particular. Every aspiring and established black poet was inspired by my father mostly through personal communion, but also through his Anthologies of Magazine Verse (1913-1939), through his intercession on their behalf with publishers and in any other way they felt he could serve them. Shortly before my father's death in 1962, Langston Hughes, at a library cultural affair, introduced him to the audience as the Black Poet Laureate.

You might be interested to know that Ezra Pound, the fascist poet, despised my father because he was black. I might say here if my father didn't think poetry should wake people up, he didn't think it should put them to sleep either. He never accepted the poetry of the unintelligibles. Also you might find it interesting that in a letter to Louis Untermeyer, Robert L. Frost remarked that one day he would tell him what he really thought of "Braithwaite and his damned anthologies." I don't think my father, who did as much as anyone to encourage Frost, was ever aware of the contempt he and Untermeyer held for him. I'm sure this contempt had its origins in my father's race and in his providing through his anthologies a lectern for all poets, "in" and "non-in."


WILLIAM S. BRAITHWAITE

I guess LeRoi Jones also prompted me to write this letter. Somewhere, in an essay, Jones linked my father with that despicable black fascist, George Schuyler. While Schuyler with his slave mentality decried all forms of black liberation struggle, my father only raised questions about direct manifestations of it in poetry. In his later years when my own experiences led me to become part of the black liberation and peoples' movements, my father and I had many lively discussions about the artist's role in the continuing fight for freedom and democracy. Lenin once admonished, "It is impossible to stand still in history . . . One must go either forward or backward . . . And if you are afraid to go forward that means you are going backward . . . ." While my father never quite agreed with me that artists, poets, cannot stand still either, he nevertheless took great pride in the accomplishments of black people and, in his way, he also participated.

In fact, if you will turn back a few pages in the same issue of your magazine, you will see his name in the masthead, alongside that of the great Du Bois, as one of the collaborators in the publication of Volume I, Number 1, of the Crisis Magazine.

Very truly yours,
Arnold D. Braithwaite

Today the anthologies of poet Walter Lowenfels are outstanding for their inclusion of black poetry: **The Writing on the Wall, In the Time of Revolution, Where is Vietnam?,** *and* **Poets of Today.** *The poem below is from* **Writing on the Wall.**

FROM RENDEZVOUS WITH AMERICA

TEMPO PRIMO
The New Negro strides upon the continent
In seven-league boots . . .
The New Negro
Who sprang from the vigor-stout loins
Of Nat Turner, gallows-martyr for Freedom,
Of Joseph Cinquez, Black Moses of the Amistad mutiny,
Of Frederick Douglass, oracle of the Catholic Man,
Of Sojourner Truth, eye and ear of Lincoln's legions,
Of Harriet Tubman, Saint Bernard of the Underground Railroad.
The New Negro
Breaks the icons of his detractors,
Wipes out the conspiracy of silence,
Speaks to his America . . .

TEMPO DI MARCIA
Out of abysses of illiteracy,
Through labyrinths of eies,
Across wastelands of Disease . . .
We Advance!

Out of dead ends of Poverty,
Through wildernesses of Superstition,
Across barricades of Jim Crowism . . .
We advance!
With the Peoples of the World . . .
We advance!

MELVIN TOLSON

BOOKS

A sober examination of anti-communism

By S.W. GERSON

John Foster Dulles
Dwight D. Eisenhower Karl Mundt
Harry S. Truman James Forrestal Joseph McCarthy

Anti-communism has been at the core of American ruling class ideology. It still is. It is the mainspring of Washington foreign policy. It has poisoned American domestic politics.

This is the thesis of courageous young professor Michael Parenti of the University of Illinois who has summed up the central fact of American imperialism since 1917 — and its historic roots — in 333 fact-filled pages.

He comes to the point swiftly in his introduction: "If America has an ideology, or a national purpose, it is anti-communism. Hundreds of billions of dollars have been expended, and hundreds of thousands of lives have been sacrificed on its behalf. It is time we gave closer scrutiny to the anti-communist impulse, its mainstays and effects, its polemics and policies."

Why does a young professor today examine critically the current political reality and underlying theory of what he calls the "American orthodoxy"? Because of the Vietnam war, he explains.

"Until a few years ago I was an anti-communist liberal who believed in the necessity of 'maintaining our commitments against the forces of communism,' " Parenti writes. "Troublesome questions arose in my mind but these were usually vanquished by my deeply conditioned reactions to fearful images of 'the cold war struggle,' and 'communist aggression.' Vietnam was for me, as for many other Americans, a crucible for my anti-communist beliefs. . . . The more I studied the problem, the more I found myself questioning not only our involvement in the conflict but also the whole train of attitudes and events that brought us to it. Eventually I found I could no longer consider myself an adherent of the anti-communism preached and practiced by American liberals and conservatives. . . .

THE ANTI-COMMUNIST IMPULSE, by Michael Parenti. Random House. New York, 1969. $7.95.

"It is somewhat difficult for me to admit that this study has led me to conclusions refuting much of the cold-war political science I had been teaching for over a dozen years. But a truth delayed is better than a truth betrayed; the reappraisal has been a sometimes painful but frequently liberating experience — of which this book is the visible product."

●

If this quotation seems excessively lengthy for a review, it is because Parenti's candor is more than an individual example of intellectual honesty. As he says, "many other Americans" are re-examinging long-held cold war beliefs and are making new appraisals. Thus it can fairly be concluded that Parenti speaks for an emerging scholarship that will help destroy cold war cant.

Parenti makes no bones about his central thesis: anti-communism is "counter-revolutionary interventionism" and long pre-dates the post-1945 cold war.

Piling fact upon fact, he traces American growth from the 18th century. "The history of the United States has been one of territorial, commercial and military expansion," he writes. From its very beginnings, he argues, the U.S. suffered from "expansionist pangs." He cites the acquisition of Florida from Spain, "our crimes against the Indian nations," the "shameless aggression" against Mexico by which Texas and California were stolen, and the Spanish-American war with the occupation of Cuba and the bloody repression against the Filipinos. All this, he points out in an aside, was woven into one oratorical tapestry by Senator Albert J. Beveridge "with the predominant themes of God, Gold and Glory."

But Parenti is interested in more than a short course in American imperialism, although he must be clearly conscious of its value to his students. His essential point is that inherent in what he describes as expansionist American capitalism has been the policy of interventionism against deep-going social change.

It was in 1917 and immediately thereafter that this policy assumed its clearest focus, he says, when President Woodrow Wilson lent his support to the policy of intervention against the Russian Revolution. "Thus did he (Wilson) initiate the strategy of permanent counter-revolution and help lay the ideological and policy foundation for the cold war to come," he writes.

"In 1919 the emerging spectre of Bolshevism sent a shudder through the bourgeois world. Having few investments in Russia, American capitalists suffered no noticeable deprivation at the hands of the Bolsheviks, but they saw the Soviet revolution as a socio-political order which fundamentally challenged their own system. For this reason the business community could support American participation in armed intervention against the Bolshevik revolutionaries while later displaying a benign indifference to the insanity of a Nazi Germany. Unlike the Soviets, Hitler did not appear to be attacking the institutions of profit and property."

But Parenti does not rest his case with the anti-Bolshevism of Wilson and Herbert Hoover. He details the friendly attitude of the American press to the rise of Mussolini, the strangling of the Spanish Republic by Western policy, the unwillingness of the Western capitalist democracies to join the Soviet Union in a pact against Nazi Germany and the U.S. refusal to sign a non-aggression pact with the USSR and China against Japanese militarism.

"All suggest," he concludes, "that the Western leaders were more concerned with the Bolshevik spectre than with the fascist threat."

●

As he reviews his own thinking, Parenti pays his sardonic respects to the liberal "cold war scholars," naming Sidney Hook, Bertram Wolfe, Merle Feinsod and Zbigniew Brzezinski among the shining lights of American Kremlinology. He is particularly wroth at their obscene bracketing of the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany as "archetypal equivalents." On this score he writes with a special passion:

"It is after all, not a matter of indifference to us that Brezhnev and his technocrats, rather than Hitler and his lunatics, preside over the Kremlin's nuclear missiles, not a small matter that Soviet goals seem directed towards achieving stabilized relations abroad and prosperity at home, rather unlike the glorified Nazi goals of war, conquest and master-race barbarism. More than appearances separate the Soviet faith in science, education and collective social betterment from the Nazi faith in Volk mysticism, psychotic sadism and genocide."

The cold war liberals, Parenti adds, did not reserve their anti-communism for foreign affairs. Home front anti-communism was part of the pattern. He points out that people like Hook, Leslie Fiedler and Diana Trilling in the McCarthyite '50s, for example, defended academic freedom "for non-communists only."

"Either out of conviction or fear, the liberal adopted the basic rhetoric of anti-communism," he goes on. "The McCarthy inquisition and his victim had one thing in common (to the lasting disadvantage of the latter): both built their arguments on anti-communist orthodoxy." He impales politician Hubert Humphrey, editor James Wechsler and scholar Owen Lattimore on his lance. The latter two, he points out, felt it necessary in appearing before the McCarthy committee to cite their anti-communist writings as a form of exculpation. "Even today," he warns, "many liberals do not raise any questions about anti-communism's presumptions and goals but concentrate their criticism on anti-communist tactics."

If Parenti is derisive of spineless liberals, he is positively fiery about Washington's massive aggression and monumental hypocrisy. Briefly recounting vast U.S. military expenditures, far-flung bases, genocide in Vietnam and CIA-financed subversion, he sums up:

"To support military dictatorships in the name of democracy, to create satellites under the banner of self-determination, to violate treaties while championing world law, to propagate lies in the name of truth — such is the Orwellian cast of moral imperialism."

●

But bitter as he is, Parenti is not without hope. He recognizes that millions have cast off the cold war shibboleths and that many people are ready for friendlier relations with the Socialist world, particularly the Soviet Union. He calls for a drastic break with anti-communist orthodoxy and argues — perhaps with an eye on some of his New Left students — that a social revolution at home "is not a prerequisite for immediate foreign policy changes." He affirms that the growing peace movement, the political struggles and a whole variety of dissenting activities are laying the basis for great transformations. And, addressing himself to hesitant political leaders, he suggests: "Within limits, the unthinkable becomes thinkable by uttering it and acting upon it."

"Anti-Communist Impulse" is clearly one of the signs of a brightening horizon. One can feel, as does this reviewer, that the term "impulse" is imprecise and unscientific. One could wish that Professor Parenti had eschewed some of the psychological jargon — or is it academic Aesopianism? — like "impulse" and "moral imperialism."

One may be disappointed that Parenti uses the "we" in discussing American imperialism, when he so obviously is talking not about the American people but of a tiny ruling class who are the essential creators and beneficiaries of anti-communism. One could have hoped that the good professor had grounded his analysis directly and not obliquely on an exposition of the fundamental laws of imperialism —from which "anti-communist impulses" develop.

But all this is distinctly secondary. By exposing the sinister character of anti-communism, Professor Parenti has made a singular contribution to political clarity and the struggle for peace and a better world. Bravo!

Pete Seeger sent us this song, which he says is "one of the greatest songs I've come across." It was written by Violeta Parra, a well-known Chilean songwriter who died in 1967. The English translation at the bottom was written by her son, Angel Parra, a composer and performer.

I LIKE STUDENTS

Que vivan los estudiantes, jardin de las alegrias
Son aves que no se asustan de animal ni policia
Y no le asustan las balas ni el ladrar de la jauria.
Cramba y zamba la cosa,
Que viva la astronomia!

Que vivan los estudiantes que rugen como los vientos
Cuando meten al oido, sotanas o regimientos
Pajarillos libertarios igual que los elementos
Caramba y zamba la cosa,
Que vivan lo experimentos!

Me qustan los estudiantes porque levantan el pecho
Cuando le dicen harina, sabiendose que es afrecho
Y no hacen el sordomudo cuando se presenta el hecho
Caramba y zamba la cosa,
El codigo del derecho!

Me gustan los estudiantes que marchan sobre la ruina
Con las banderas en alto va toda la estudiantina
Son quimicos y doctores, cirujanos y dentistas
Caramba y zamba la cosa,
Vivan los especialistas!

Me gustan los estudiantes que van al laboratorio
Descubren lo que se esconde adentro del confesorio
Ya tienen un gran carrito que llego hasta el purgatorio
Caramba y zamba la cosa,
Los libros explicatorios!

Me gustan los estudiantes que con muy clara elocuencia
A la bolsa negra sacra le bajo las indulgencias
Porque hasta cuando nos dura, senores, la penitencia
Caramba y zamba la cosa,
Que viva toda la ciencia!

Hurray for the students, garden of joys
They are birds that fear neither beast nor police
Bullets and barking dogs do not frighten them.
It's a hell of a thing,
Hurray for astronomy!

Hurray for the students that roar like the wind
When talk to them of cassocks or regiments,
Libertarian fledglings just like the elements.
It's a hell of a thing,
Hurray for experiments!

I like students because they are the yeast
Of the bread that will emerge from the oven with a delicious taste
For the mouth of the poor who eat with bitterness.
It's a hell of a thing,
Hurray for literature!

I like students because they stick out their chests
When someone tries to put one over on them,
And they don't act deaf and dumb when the chips are down.
It's a hell of a thing,
The legal code.

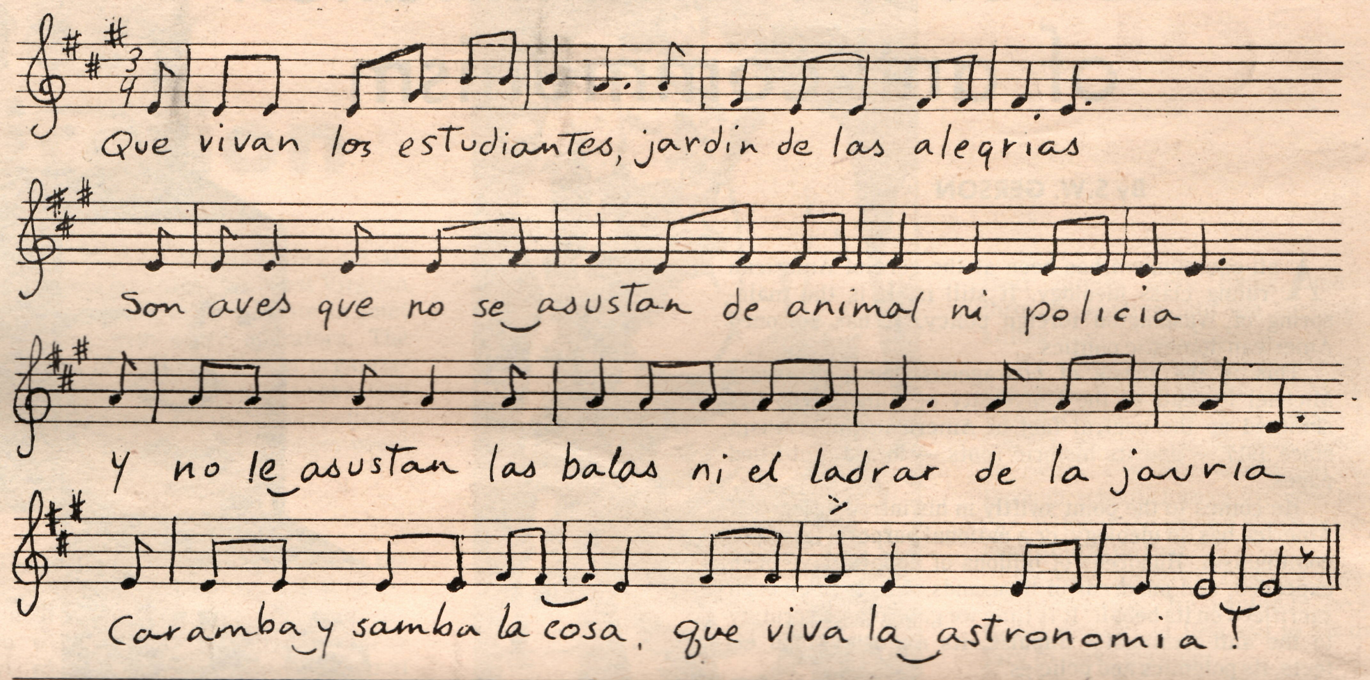
I like the students that march over the ruins
With flags on high goes the whole student marching band
They're chemists and doctors, surgeons and dentists.
It's a hell of a thing,
Hurray for the specialists!

I like the students who go to the laboratory
To discover what is hidden inside the confessional;
They already have a big cart that got as far as purgatory.
It's a hell of a thing,
Explanatory books!

I like the students who, with clear eloquence,
Took the starch out of the sacred black market;
Because as long as that penitence lasts, gentlemen
It's a hell of a thing,
Hurray for all science!

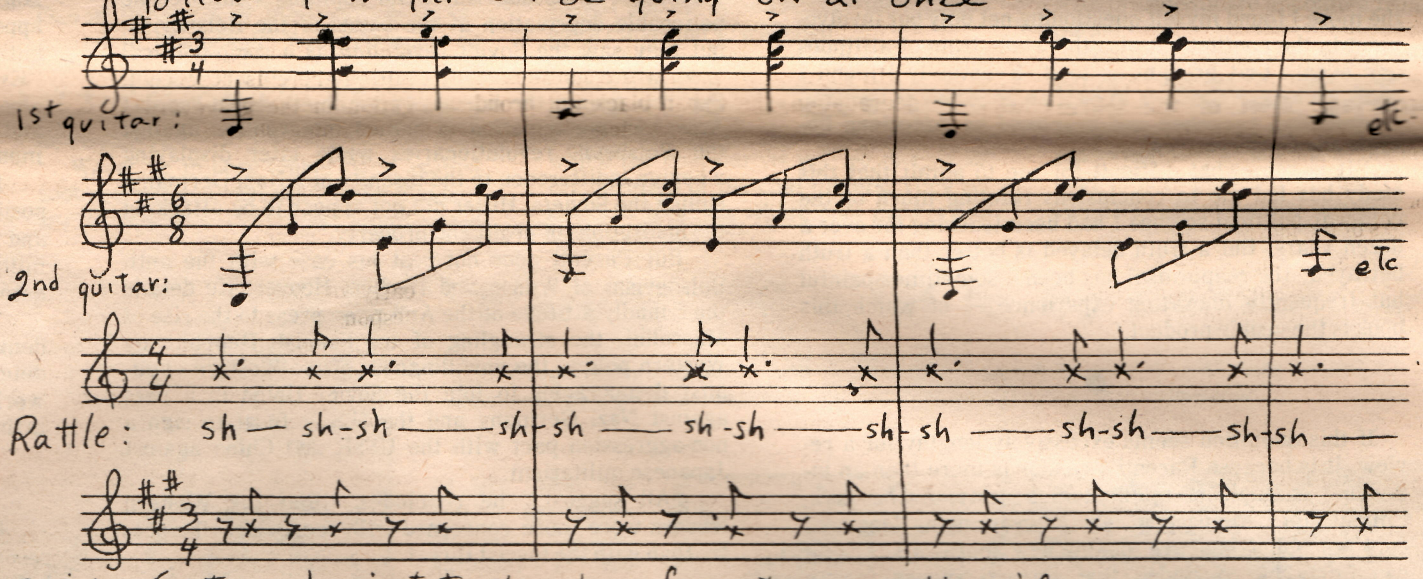
Me Gustan Los Estudiantes
(I Like Students)

words + music by Violeta Parra
© CHILE, 1967


Que vivan los estudiantes, jardin de las alegrias
Son aves que no se asustan de animal ni policia
Y no le asustan las balas ni el ladrar de la jauria
Caramba y samba la cosa, que viva la astronomia!

(while the accompaniment holds strict tempo, the singer will naturally have to stretch or compress a note, to bring out the words).

The success of the above song depends upon the accompaniment combining 3/4 rhythm and 6/8 rhythm simultaneously. This is a typical Technique in the popular folkmusic of Chile and Argentina. Thus the following might all be going on at once


1st guitar:
etc
2nd guitar:
etc
Rattle:
sh — sh-sh —— sh | sh —— sh-sh —— sh | sh —— sh-sh —— sh | sh ——

Stick (Not usual — just to show how far out you could go if you wanted.)

Editor's memo

The dawn used to tip-toe in quietly; you heard a few early birds singing, the first footsteps on the pavement downstairs, and the sound of the milkman. That's how I remember it.

But now! My radio switches on for the 6 a.m. news: Bang! Bang! Bang! pistol shots in the voice of the announcer, a pilot killed on his plane to Boston, his co-pilot wounded, the killer asprawl in the cockpit. That opens the day! Then comes the announcer's count of the dead on the long battlelines of Vietnam, and Laos. Then the announcement that Prince Sihanouk is ousted in Cambodia.

Disaster piles on disaster.

I am not painting any dark lily here. My purpose is to say this: many who go entirely by the headlines and news columns of the mass media — TV and radio as well — come out of the day's outpourings with a lopsided view of life: death, corruption, and destruction, which God knows are there, indeed, in these final days of world imperialism. But nobody, nobody in the country — except this paper and those it represents — tells you of life, of the opposite to the tolling of bells. Our proposition is to tell you of those who are in combat with the death's head system and its contingents. Our guidelines are the struggles for peace, for liberation, for Man's living standards, for the strengthening of his labor union, for improved education, housing, health programs, for everything that makes for the well-being of the plain men and women and their posterity.

That is the purpose of this magazine, of the Daily World and the People's World. And of those additional periodicals negotiating now to take this magazine in the near future.

Right now the Daily World is out to reach 6,500 new readers by June 1, to complete the first stage of that campaign — 2,000 new readers by April 1. The People's World is strengthening its financial base with a fund campaign right now. Our readers have been alerted to these campaigns for some weeks now. More respond as time goes on. But the tempo can be speeded up, and will be, if, as the slogan says, you "seize the moment."

That slogan emerged from the conference held in New York of leading activists in various fields a few days ago. They want to see the people reading what they deserve to read — the truth. Old Man Scripps used to say, "Give the people the truth and it shall set them free." He said that for his purposes and didn't mean it by a long shot. Others, like Lenin, have said: "An idea, when seized by the masses, becomes a tangible force."

Truth is our stock-in-trade, the essence of the ideas we promote.

Did you get a new reader this week?

Joseph North

ALL EQUAL — THE NEW CUBA

Major Juan Almeida

Jesus Menendez

Antonio Maceo

Prensa Latina

By CARL JORDAN

The revolution has no color,'' said Antonio Maceo. He was Cuba's outstanding military leader and one of the most advanced political thinkers during the decades of struggle against Spanish domination.

Maceo was a black man. He was killed in battle in 1895. He and Jose Marti, a white man, are the two greatest national heroes of Cuba's past.

Maceo's statement that "the Revolution has no color'' meant that color was irrelevant. Most of the soldiers who fought for an independent Cuba during the last century were black. Maceo and Jose Marti challenged every expression of racism and discrimination in the ranks of the independence movement.

When the last stage of the independence war against Spain began, Marti's representative inside Cuba was Juan Gualberto Gomez. Juan Gualberto, a black man, was the one who advised Marti, who was still in exile, that the insurrection should not be delayed any longer. Marti then sent instructions for the insurrection to begin in the second half of February, 1895. When all was in order Juan Gualberto sent Marti a coded telegram informing him that hostilities were about to begin.

The insurrectional activities of the province of Oriente were decisive during this last stage of the war against Spain. General Guillermo Moncada, of the Independence Army, a black man, played a leading role in initiating action in Oriente. During the period of direct American intervention in the first years of the present century, racism became the official State policy. Many racist practices were transferred to Cuba from the United States. The U.S. controlled government set up discriminatory civil service practices and prohibited blacks, who had fought so hard for Cuba's independence, from even serving in the police force.

(Editor's note: This Yankee imperialism action reinforced racist practices left over from slavery.)

Cuban blacks remained relegated to a position of second-class citizens. This condition of inequality in social, political and economic life, continued throughout the entire period of the pseudo-Republic and only ended with the triumph of the Cuban revolution.

Blacks in Cuba suffered all the traditional forms of humiliation found in a racist society. They were burdened with the hardest, most unskilled and lowest paid work. Black women, with some exceptions as in the case of entertainers, could aspire to no more than being a maid or washerwoman.

Many were forced into a life of prostitution. The beaches, social clubs and many better neighborhoods were Jim Crow. Blacks had less opportunities for education than whites. Blacks, like their poor white brothers and sisters, lived in the most miserable conditions. Unemployment among blacks was proportionally higher than among whites.

In spite of the objective conditions of degradation, the Cuban black felt proud of his heritage. The African tradition penetrated all Cuban popular culture. The knowledge that blacks played a leading role in the struggle for Cuban independence gave him an inner sense of pride and belonging. He was, as Marti said, a Cuban first and a black second.

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During the years of the Republic when Cuba was a semi-colony of the United States, blacks fought for their rights alongside other Cubans. Many of the leading working-class leaders were blacks.

Jesus Menendez of the Sugar Workers and Aracelio Iglesias of the dock workers were recognized leaders, elected by the rank and file of their unions, both black and white.

Their courage and integrity have become legend in Cuba. They fought in the interest of the working man without wavering or compromising of principles. They confronted the gangster elements that had taken over many of the trade unions and remained leaders until they were gunned down by paid assassins.

The names of Menendez and Iglesias have been given to many factories, schools, farms and work brigades in the new Cuba. The banner won by the young Americans of the Venceremos Brigade for cutting a million **arrobas** of cane was adorned with a portrait of Jesus Menendez.

Iglesias and Mendez are just two of the men with black skin who led Cubans — black and white — in the struggle against the American and Cuban elite who controlled the wealth of Cuba. From Pinar del Rio in the West to Oriente province in the East the people remember these old fighters. Some continue to play respected roles in the building of a socialist society.

Blacks fought alongside Fidel Castro in all stages of the struggle against Batista for a free Cuba. Armando Mestre, among others, took part in the attack on the Moncada Fortress and was later killed.

In each and every battle to defend the Cuban revolution, black and white have fought side by side without distinction. When a hero is mentioned in Cuba, the people do not ask if he was black or white, the important thing is that he was a Cuban fighting for the independence of his country and for a just society. And when Cuban heroes are buried there is no such thing as segregation in the graveyard as is the case in so many places in the United States!

Another of the innumerable symbols of courage within the Cuban revolution was that of a young black teacher named Conrado Benitez who was brutally murdered by counterrevolutionaries early in the 1961 literacy campaign. In response to this savage act the Cuban government set up the Conrado Benitez Brigade, composed of tens of thousands of young people, to carry the task of wiping out illiteracy to a successful conclusion. Many schools and enterprises, as well as a large merchant ship, bear the name of this young hero.

Everywhere in Cuba one finds blacks working and studying in conditions of complete equality with whites. The Centenary Youth Column which is working primarily in Camaguey and Oriente has numerous black men and women in leading positions. The same can be said for the army, police and every other sphere of Cuban life. Everything formerly lily-white is now the right of all.

It would be an endless task to enumerate all the blacks in responsible positions in Cuba. Cuba does not have "token'' integration — it has full integration. Capable workers and good revolutionaries are promoted for their quality, not for their color.

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In the schools and universities blacks and whites are being educated on equal terms as doctors, engineers, agronomists, technicians, teachers and administrators. If any be in need of convincing it would suffice to take them on a visit to a medical school or to the Miramar section of Havana where tens of thousands of young scholarship students are living, or to a pedagogical institute or to the naval academy. The lesson is clear: the rug has been pulled out from under discrimination and racism in Cuba.

The social and economic transformations brought about by the Cuban revolution have also been a significant blow against consequences of racism. The Urban Reform Law abolished the parasitic landlord class and lowered rents to ten percent of income. This year rents will be eliminated completely. The worst shanty towns have been eliminated and their population given decent housing. Only the blockade and the material difficulties of production limit this aspect of the Revolution. Schools and hospitals have been established in city and countryside bringing — without cost — culture and medical care to deprived areas. Beaches and social clubs which were "restricted'' are now free of charge and open to all Cuban citizens.

The back of racial discrimination in Cuba has been broken forever. While there are survivals of prejudice in the consciousness of some people, these are being fast uprooted and play no important role in Cuban life. Cuban government policy assures equality for all. That is the essential condition for an end to all racist thinking.

In 1959 Fidel Castro declared: "One must place the stigma of public condemnation upon those who, so full of past prejudices, are unscrupulous enough to discriminate against or abuse some Cubans because of a lighter or darker skin.'' Today this guideline is a reality. Anyone who discriminates or openly voices racist ideas is anathema to the socialist society which Cuba is building. No racist can hope to maintain any position of authority in Cuba today.

The Cuban Prime Minister has also spoken about his personal experiences with the race problem:

> "I have had exceptional opportunities to understand how unjust and absurd is racial prejudice. Looking back on the most difficult episodes of my life, I think of the Granma expedition. Those men in that little boat, all in danger of being swallowed up by the sea, sailed under the same banner and with the same idea — blacks and whites. I think of Mestre, a comrade from the Moncada attack who died in the Revolution. I think of Almeida, my comrade, my adjutant and one of our best captains.''

How "unjust and absurd is racial prejudice''! Today the Cuban people are in agreement with their Commander-in-Chief. Cuba can say proudly that those injustices and absurdities no longer exist.

Prensa Latina

The merger mania

By ERIK BERT

The "merger mania" poses a "threat to people—to worker and consumer alike," the Conference of Transportation Trades charges in a recent study. "America's social institutions are being placed in peril; the security of American workers is being undermined."

The Conference consists of representatives of 27 AFL-CIO unions in all modes of domestic and international transportation, and represents more than 4.5 million workers.

It warns:

- The "present merger movement has already produced gigantic multi-industry corporations" and "high levels of concentrations in many industries."
- "The United States economy is rapidly becoming ruled by a small industrial elite with the decision-making power for all of American industry being concentrated in fewer and fewer hands."
- "Industrial concentration is proceeding at an alarming pace in the United States." "The dangers posed by conglomerate mergers become frighteningly clear."

The conglomerates are "a fact of life with which all labor, and particularly all of transportation labor, will have to deal," the CTT says.

These views are substantiated in the CTT's recent report, "Conglomerates: Concentration, Collusion, Control." The report was issued Feb. 15, 1970, as the "first in a series of studies on Corporate America." It was presented by C.L. Dennis, international president of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, and chairman of the CTT.

The Conference is concerned, specifically, with the "inevitable impact that the conglomerate has on the collective bargaining process — which is to say, the impact that these multi-industry corporations have on the American worker."

"Such issues as work-force security, economic progress, purchasing power and human dignity — the concepts which labor has for years struggled to imprint on the corporate conscience—are swept aside in the conglomerate's insatiable search for profits, profits and more profits."

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A "conglomerate" merges corporations which have no rational connection with one another in the kind of production in which they are engaged.

FMC Corp., for example, combines corporations which manufacture chemicals, insecticides, seeds, pulp, agricultural machinery, railroad cars, barges, naval ordnance, rapid fire gun turrets, etc.

Gulf & Western embraces musical instruments, automotive parts, movies, horse racing, recordings, a wide range of machinery, zinc mining, rock quarrying, ready-mix cement, sugar, produce, cigars, trade journals, paper, real estate, banking, and insurance.

The October meeting of the CTT warned of "monopoly control of the American economic system—domination of a broad range of production and services by a handful of companies and individuals through corporate structures which cut across industry lines."

The urgency of the present situation lies in the fact, the study says, that the present merger movement has "already eclipsed the two previous movements both in duration and in magnitude of acquisition."

The present wave is the third "major merger movement" in our history. The first wave, at the turn of the century, was signalized by the emergence of the 'captains of industry' and the 'robber barons.' Consolidation during that period began with "John D. Rockefeller's creation of Standard Oil in 1879" and, by 1890, "mergers had become the dominant method of business consolidation."

"The merger movement shows no sign of abating," the CTT study warns, adding that "announced merger talks indicate that the merger movement has just begun in the transportation field."

This "concentration of economic power" represents a "peril . . . . to the maintenance of effective transportation service in America," the CTT study holds.

"All conglomerates," it adds, pose a danger to transportation."

"Conglomerates are here to stay, and transportation mergers will probably be increasing in the 1970's."

The CTT study examines merger activity in the transportation industry in three categories — "pure conglomerate acquisitions, intermodal agreements, and mergers between companies in the same mode."

The Federal Trade Commission has classified 11 firms as the "new conglomerates." During the seven-year period 1961-68 they acquired 485 companies worth almost $11 billion. Nine of the 11 picked up 95 companies directly involved in the transportation industry.

Six of these nine have had a heavy direct impact on the transportation industry, the study shows. The six are: Gulf & Western, Ling-Temco-Vought, International Telephone & Telegraph; Teledyne; Litton Industries; and Textron.

In the shipping industry the merger movement appears to be a case of "huge conglomerates acquiring individual shipping lines."

The study cites two conglomerates which have been created in the transportation services. As a result, certain transportation enterprises "are now being operated by companies that had little or no previous expertise or experience in providing public transportation." They are:

R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company which acquired McLean Industries which operates Sea-Land steamship services.

Walter Kidde & Company which acquired United States Lines.

In air transportation, the CTT study feels, it is "safe to assume . . . that there will be many more . . . mergers in the 1970's."

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The CTT study calls attention, also, to the rise in the transportation industry of the so-called "intermodal" agreements. These are agreements between different modes of transportation, for example, between railroad and highway trucking; trucking and air freight; trucking and shipping, and the like.

"The decade of the 70's may well usher in a new era of American transportation — an era that will see the demise of the traditional shipping industry, rail industry and air industry." This decade may well mark "the birth of the integrated transportation industry."

Two years ago, the study says, C.L. Dennis, CTT chairman, foresaw the day when "railroads, airlines and shipping companies will be merged into transportation companies.

"I think we are going to see mergers on top of mergers, in all of the transportation industry," he said.

To explain the "new concept of an integrated transportation system," of "an intermodal corporation which controls many facets of transportation," the study quotes Ralph Weiser, vice president of the American Export Industries. Weiser said:

". . . as a transportation service company, we will accept, route, document and provide a pool of transportation equipment and control shipments all over the world, either through our own facilities or through other carriers with whom we will have contractual relationships. As a distribution service company we will do all of this plus provide one-stop services in banking, warehousing, inventory control and insurance."

American Export industries "is well on its way to doing just that," the CTT study says. The corporation's "major subsidiary is American Export-Isbrandtsen Lines which owns over 40 ships." It adds the important fact that 36 of these 40 ships "are subsidized by the Federal government."

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The CTT study cites the "cross subsidization" potential of conglomerates as "of prime importance to the trade union movement."

"Multi-industry firms," it explains, "have the ability to offset losses in one profit center by gains in another."

Thus, 'price wars' in one industry are sustained by profits of the conglomerate in other sectors.

But, for unionists, the threat lies in the fact that the cost of a strike in one sector can be offset by the conglomerates' continuing profits in the other areas of its dominion.

"Of prime importance to the trade union movement is that 'cross-subsidization' can be used to cover losses due to strikes" in part of the conglomerate's operations, by continuing profits in the other sectors.

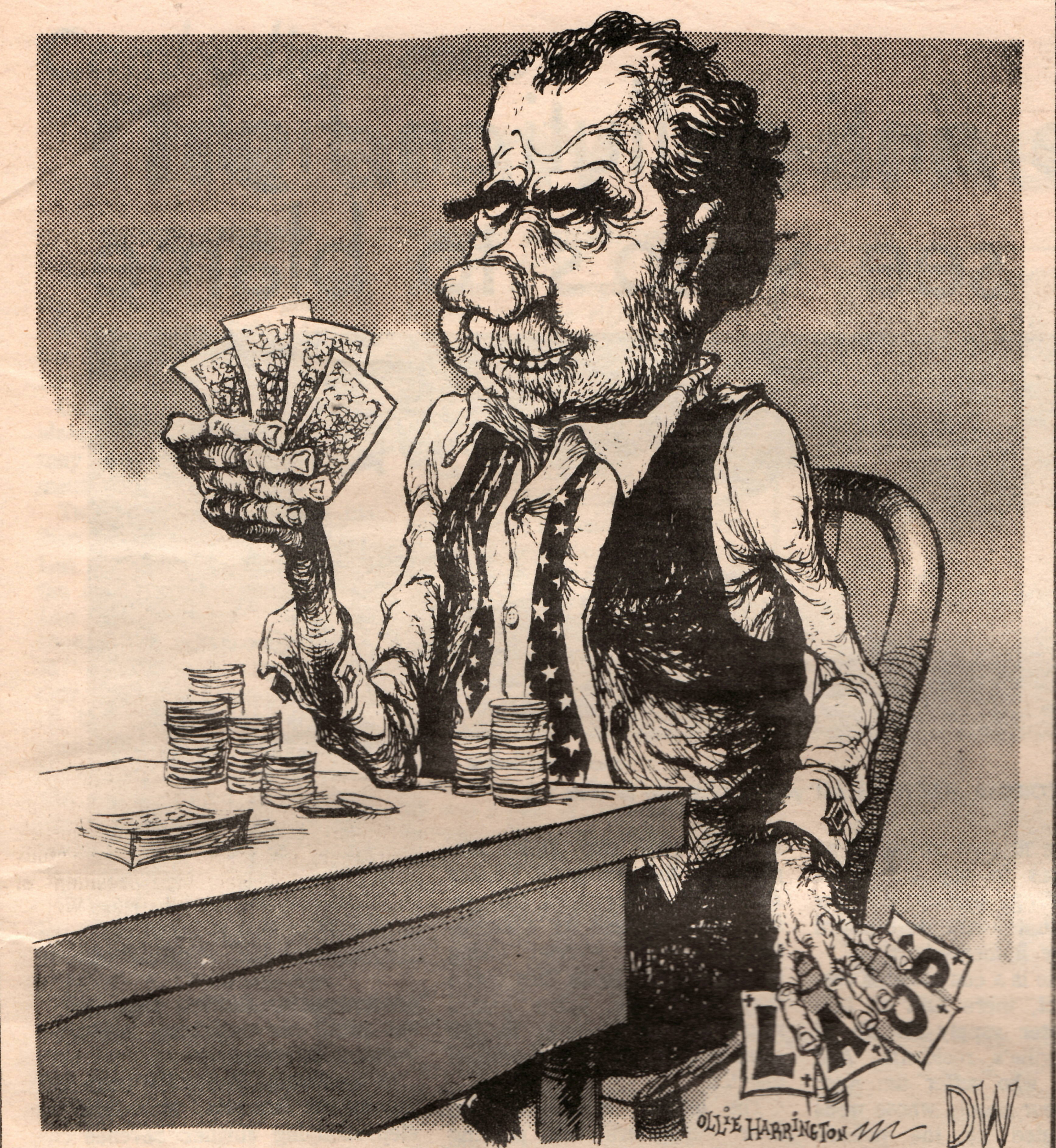
"In this way," the CTT study says, "it is similar to the mutual-aid pact in the airline industry, under which members of the pact contribute a percentage of their income to compensate the struck firm for its loss of revenue . . ."

On the whole the CTT's reaction to the merger wave is limited to animosity to the conglomerate form. It condemns those mergers which, like Penn-Central, result in a cut-back in services.

But it has no substantial reaction to the overall consolidation in U.S. industry against which it warned or, even, to the intermodal consolidation which, it says, threatens to blanket the transportation industry.

The massive proportions of the present merger movement, the rise of the conglomerate type of merger, and the emergence of intermodal consolidation pose fundamental issues to the people and, especially, to the working class.

As the CTT study shows, they present the nature of capitalism as an issue, inescapably.



"SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE CHEATIN' AS LONG AS WE'RE A FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER?"

to leave San Quentin a better man than he was."

Wells has been locked up, beaten and subjected to other degradations as much as any man who has served time in the state of California.

He is still in San Quentin, but he has never flinched, and he has never backed down on an issue when he knew he was right.

As Attorney Garry once remarked· "Bob was one of the original Black Panthers. The authorities didn't have the label, but they knew that Bob was a new kind of threat, a threat not simply to 'institutional harmony' but to something more fundamental."

Wells put it well in another context: "I was condemned to die because I refused, because I was unable to passively submit to the undemocratic, unChristian and demoralizing policy of segregation and racial discrimination as practiced in our prisons by ignorant, narrow-minded, bigoted prison officials and demanded of those guardians of society that I be treated with the respect and digntiy due a man."

It is about time we, the people, reconsider the case of Robert Wells. Getting him off death row was all that could be hoped for at the time.

Everyone was so relieved that he got off with life that it was forgotten that "life" is forever when there is "no possibility of parole."

MILITANT

Despite public indignation at the treatment he was receiving at the hands of the state, Wells anti-racist militancy was skipped over or played down.

This was the McCarthy era: it was not a period when the black man striking out against racism and amerikkkan tradition was looked upon with favor or even tolerance.

Even the left, aware of his essential qualities, was afraid to push too hard.

But times have changed, and progressively more people have gained insight into the true nature of racism and its inextricable ties to capitalist exploitation. It is time now to move in the direction of getting Wells out of prison where he can dedicate his fervor and his vast experience to socially useful activity.

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from the past and see in the present that only new forms of the mass movement or the awakening of new sections of the masses to independent struggle really rouses a spirit of struggle and courage in all Single combat, however, inasmuch as it remains single combat . . . has the immediate effect of simply creating a short-lived sensation, while indirectly it even leads to apathy and a passive waiting for the next bout." And, he might have added, it also can have the indirect result of driving workers into the fascist trick bag.

The experience of the black movement is a clear indication of why terrorism is proper when it comes from a mass base. The rest of today's terrorism, however, is simply individualism. If it is shown that groups are engaging in this terrorism, that would be individualism on a collective scale.

LEE SHELBY, San Jose

An appeal

Recently in the sports section of the S.F. Examiner there was a picture of a crippled Vietnam veteran, Dave Condit, 23, which isn't remarkable since there are thousands of young guys under 25 who will be in wheelchairs for the rest of their lives because of Vietnam.

But on the back of Condit's wheelchair were his sentiments about the war that cost him his legs — it said: "Stump Power" and "Read the Ally" with flowers drawn on the canvas back of the chair.

Condit lost both his legs while serving as a Marine lance-corporal in Vietnam. The Ally is an anti-war, anti-military GI paper which is widely read throughout the military.

We are desperately in need of funds and support. Contact us at Box 9276, Berkeley, Ca., (415) 845-8372.

THE ALLY, Berkeley

Editorial

Nixon's attack on the workers

(Continued from page 4)

government in San Francisco or the Post Office, setting type or driving trucks and trains or stacking crates are basically the same and must be attacked by people united on a national scale.

The attack on the postal workers is serious business. It's danger lies not only in cynical and potentially violent affront to the dignity of the men and women who work in the stations. It is a signal flashing green for something headed our way — a growing overall threat to working people and their organizations.

A wide ranging legislative attack has been initiated by the Administration on the national level. The cue has been picked up and anti-labor forces are going to work with renewed hope on state and local levels.

Included in this attack are the following:

- Efforts to secure legislation which would force an imposed settlement on the railroad workers ending their strike which is now temporarily postponed.
- The Administration's proposal to outlaw strikes in the transportation industry.
- The indication from Nixon appointed Chief Justice Warren Burger and two other justices that they intend to work for a reversal of the 1959 ruling that gave the National Labor Relations Board exclusive authority over all forms of picketing. Burger prefers that each state set their own rules.
- Legislation recently introduced by Sen. Robert Griffin (R.-Mich.) which observers say is aimed at breaking any possible national Teamster strike. The bill calls for a 120 day "cooling off" period and entails a form of compulsory arbitration.
- Administration efforts to break the back of rank and file militancy by denying the membership the right to vote on contract settlements.
- The announcement last week that the general counsel of the NLRB had authorized federal officials to take legal action to prevent labor officials and independent community groups from conducting the boycott of California grapes in support of striking farm workers.

The corporation executives and their allies in Congress were well aware from the beginning that this was going to be a crucial year for labor. They knew that working people were hurting from inflation. They knew that their own speedup drive for greater profits has left a residue of bitterness that would explode once the demands for relief were made and refused.

Now the Administration has given these greedy bastards some indication of how far Nixon and company are prepared to go. The army was ordered to scab.

That's where we are today. The unions have got their answer from Washington as to what to expect if they move to protect their own. Nobody should wait to hear it again. There shouldn't be a second time. Every effort must be expended by all progressive people and organizations to head off their anti-labor drive.

From the staff

Women's rally: confusion and clarity

SAN FRANCISCO

I CAME IN for some rather sharp criticism recently from fellow staff members regarding an article I had written for the San Francisco edition of the People's World about an International Women's Day rally.

The tone and content of the March 8 rally had been more important than my short story had indicated, people said, and the story had been almost devoid of analysis of what the rally and the developments around it meant for the women's movement.

I pled guilty — to part of those charges, anyway — and offered as reason (not excuse) my own mixed feelings after the rally as to just what it really indicated.

At first it seemed foolish to reveal confusion to one's readers, especially in a situation which is often met with confused reactions anyway. But sometimes it helps to share one's confusion; only in collective discussion of the elements that produced it can clarity of any kind be gained.

SO, TO refresh those who did read the story several weeks ago, and to acquaint those who didn't, the event, which drew about 500 persons, heard a member of United Asian Women, a Black Panther, a hospital worker, a member of the Los Siete de la Raza committee, a member of Welfare Rights Organization, several Santa Clara County Werkers' Committee members and a member of Women's Liberation.

Both, in choice of speakers and what was said, the rally reflected a sharp departure from the separatist, personal analysis approach of some parts of the women's liberation movement. This was exemplified in the statements that "women have to get together to find out our problems aren't individual but caused by this society" and that "to unite working people now we have to change the ways men and women relate."

Since this is what I've been saying — and hoping to hear at a women's liberation event — just what left me with mixed feelings after the rally?

TWO THINGS, I think. First, the fact that what the rally meant was likely to be confused, not clarified, by the way organizers of another rally were dealt with, and second, that the rally reached primarily men and women in radical groups and a few members of the Latino community, and seemed to reach few of the relatively non-political women for whom the women's movement had been their first involvement.

On the first point, either because they had been excluded or because they decided to "go it alone," a group of women, including members of the Young Socialist Alliance, planned an earlier rally in Berkeley which was more focused on "women's issues," and did not reflect the international character of the holiday.

This was viewed by organizers of the San Francisco rally as "sabotage" and when the YSAers came to San Francisco their literature table was overturned. Although some clarification of positions occasionally follows such confrontations, usually it is obscured by defensive factionalism.

Secondly, why didn't the rally reach more of the women's lib members who are relatively new to radical politics?

There is a tendency for women who recognize the need to bring black, brown and white working class women into motion, to ignore other women in the women's lib movement, rather than working day to day to convince these largely middle class women of the need for a working class approach to this new movement.

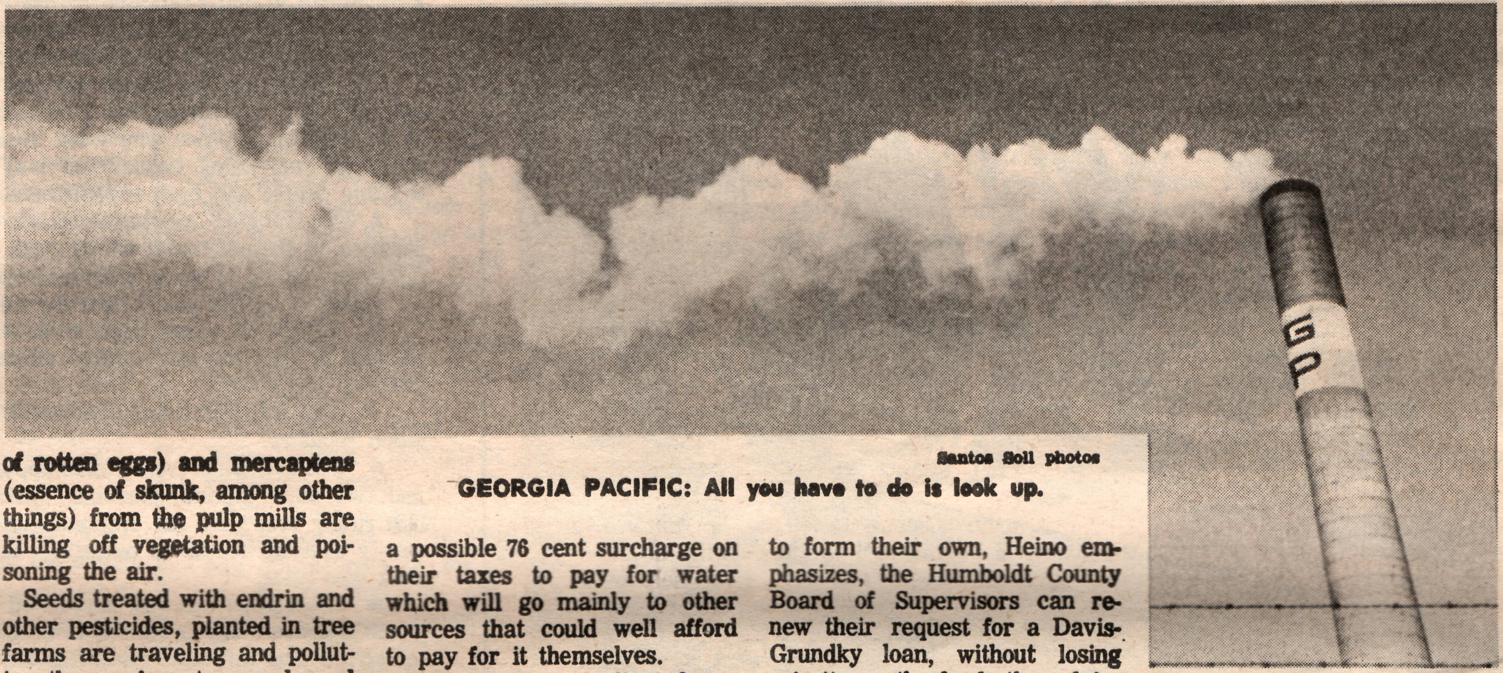
THIS IS a dangerous policy. Because, whatever changes it is undergoing, women's lib is still a middle class movement. If it is abandoned — or usurped rather than convinced to change its approach — there will be little chance it will grow as a relatively unified national movement, rather than a new reflection of the movement divisions that already exist.

—JUDY BASTON

Water battle in McKinleyville

Microcosm of the anti-pollution fight —where you can see who's to blame

By JUDY BASTON



Santos Soll photos

GEORGIA PACIFIC: All you have to do is look up.

McKINLEYVILLE, Calif. — When Governor Ronald Reagan spoke to students in northern California's Humboldt county last week, he drew a little weak laughter and a lot of derisive shouts when he said, "It seems a little silly to talk about air pollution up here."

Indeed, even as Reagan was making his claim, thick fog-like smoke from burners of the nation's huge lumber companies was belching into the skies of the area, creating a stench somewhat stronger than rotten eggs.

Most people tend to associate air pollution with big cities, large concentrations of heavy industry and automobiles. And the "country" (which in California means everything north of San Francisco) is seen as a place to escape from the desecration that's being inflicted on our environment.

A visit to Humboldt county — one of the heartlands of the nation's forest products industry — shows immediately that this assessment isn't true.

In fact, in many ways the situation in Northern California indicates more clearly than in the cities just who is responsible for pollution, and who will have to be made to act to end it.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE

It is impossible to drive through cities such as Fortuna, Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville and continue to believe that the ecology movement means an individual commitment to stop littering or using internal combustion engines or going hunting or fishing. All one has to do is look up at the smokestacks to find those responsible: Georgia Pacific, Weyerhaeuser, Pacific Lumber, and more.

This question of Humboldt county pollution is — as most pollution questions are — tied in with a number of other matters. Among them are water, taxes, and community autonomy.

Crops and water in the area become more polluted every day. Hydrogen sulfide (essence of rotten eggs) and mercaptens (essence of skunk, among other things) from the pulp mills are killing off vegetation and poisoning the air.

Seeds treated with endrin and other pesticides, planted in tree farms are traveling and polluting the area's water supply and poisoning the wildlife.

TAXES RISE

And, in the midst of all this poisoning, its ultimate victims, the people of Humboldt county, are increasingly taxed to pay for services for the forest product companies.

In 1959, for example, the property tax in Humboldt county was the highest in the state. This was partly because of the state's timber tax code, essentially a list of loopholes for the lumber companies.

In 1961 the assessed value of 1,200,000 acres of Humboldt timber land made up 2.3 per cent of the tax base, standing timber 9.9 per cent. This in a county where the Chamber of Commerce boasts the lumber industry accounts for about 70 per cent of all industrial activity.

Currently, in McKinleyville, a city of some 7,000 persons about 15 miles north of Eureka, a scheme has been launched to make the area's residents pay even more heavily for water that will go mainly to the huge lumber companies.

A heated controversy has been taking place in the area about whether McKinleyville should join the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District. Some opponents of this plan charge McKinleyville residents could face a possible 76 cent surcharge on their taxes to pay for water which will go mainly to other sources that could well afford to pay for it themselves.

The issue is a complicated one. At present, there isn't an adequate water supply for all of McKinleyville's residents. And the ones who suffer the most are the poor people whose wells are polluted by the poisons belched out by the lumber mills. But what is the best solution to this question — joining the district and paying for the lumber mills' water, or holding out for establishment of an autonomous district?

John Heino, an engineer with the Division of Highways who is the staunchest opponent of McKinleyville joining the water district, says there are sources of artesian water available to service McKinleyville until provisions can be made for establishing an independent district.

PRESS BLACKOUT

(This disclosure was blacked out by the local press, which Heino charges is behind McKinleyville joining the district, and has no hesitation about slanting its news in that direction.)

Heino is a candidate for the board of directors of the McKinleyville Community Services District, running on a platform of establishing an independent water system for McKinleyville. The election is April 14.

If McKinleyville voters decide not to join the Humboldt Bay District, and wait until next year to form their own, Heino emphasizes, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors can renew their request for a Davis-Grundky loan, without losing priority on the funds they claim they have now. Other grants might also be available for the establishment of an independent district.

The lumber companies and their supporters are pushing hard for McKinleyville to join the district, and their plans seem to go beyond just ensuring that the huge firms will have another source of payment for their water.

A number of things are in the background. First, projected expansion of the present forest products plants and possible new plants. Georgia-Pacific has conversion furnaces that would service double its present production.

Associated with this is construction of the Butler Valley Dam on the nearby Mad River. This is a $17 million project, which its opponents charge cannot be justified in terms of domestic water needs; nor can the $19 million diversion and filtering plant and new pipelines.

These are industrial projects, but through the expanding water district, residents of the area will be made to pay for them, rather than assessing the industries through a levy on the special assessment district that they already have.

The struggle against further financing for the lumber companies pollution is taking place in a relatively conservative area.

This has had a number of results. First, people in the last decade or so in this area have not been used to organizing themselves to fight for their needs. For this and other reasons the movement around the water district has been substantially a one-man show.

AN ATTACK

Another product of the conservative climate has been an attack on Heino by Supervisor Guy Rusher, who called him "subversive" or part of a "subversive movement."

Indeed, the entire board of supervisors has railroaded acceptance of the district without any mandate from the people of McKinleyville.

Perspectives for further action around the question of water, pollution, taxes and community control extend beyond this election.

Several small California communities have used federal anti-poverty funds to establish independent water districts that do not profit the adjoining agribusiness interests.

In the Salinas Valley the community of Berendo took this step, denying further revenue to the lettuce growers of the Salinas Valley.

And near Bakersfield, a small community called Plainview formed a water cooperative and uses the profits for community services such as playgrounds.

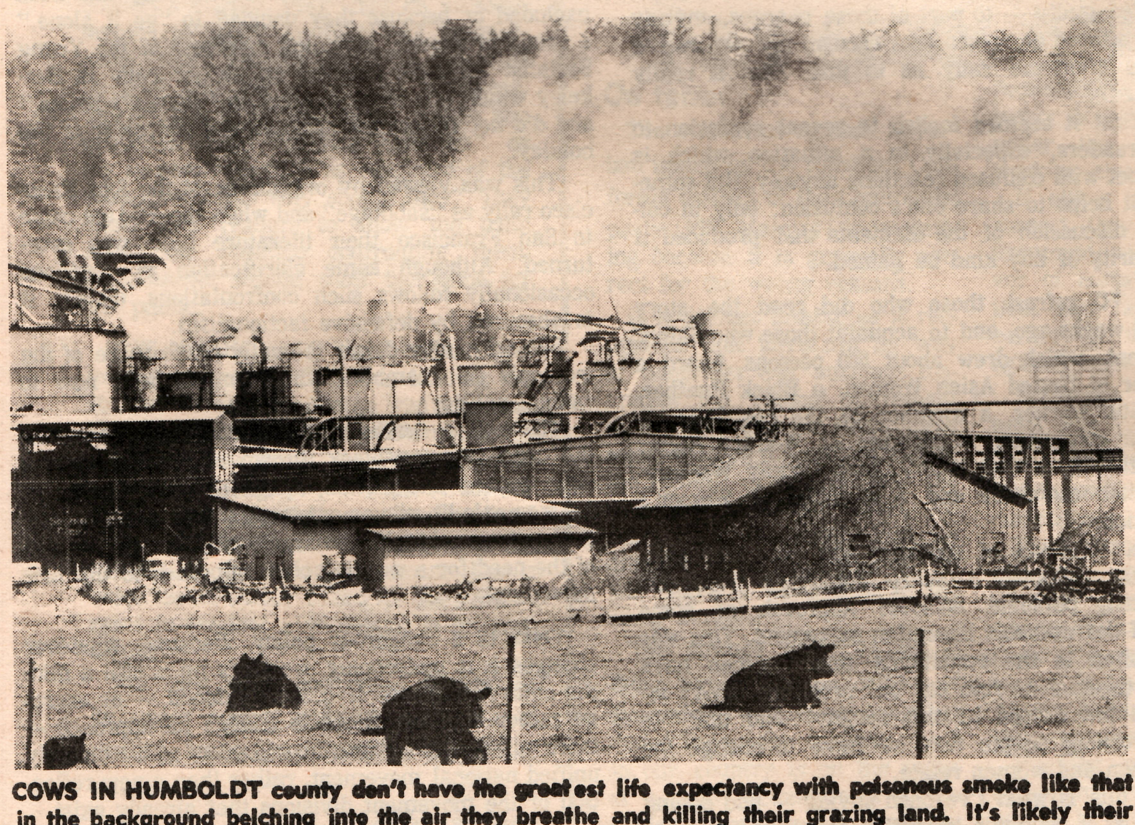
The alternatives for them would have been joining the Kern County Water District and paying for water used by the grape growers.

A MICROCOSM

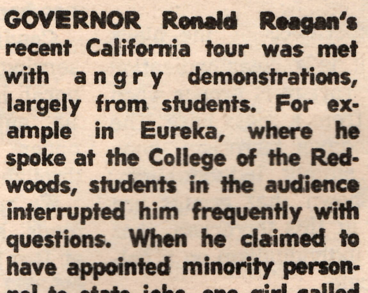
McKinleyville's battle is a microcosm of what the anti-pollution fight is all about, and a demonstration of how many sides it has.

The lumber companies have not been forced to control the poisonous smoke from their mills — which they could easily do — and local residents have been made to pay for much of the water that keeps these mills going.

Organized opposition to this desecration may be relatively small now. But if the reaction to Reagan by the area's students who repeatedly yelled out "Tax the corporations," was any indication, the fight against pollution in Northern California may have a decidedly different character in a few years.



COWS IN HUMBOLDT county don't have the greatest life expectancy with poisonous smoke like that in the background belching into the air they breathe and killing their grazing land. It's likely their milk and beef products — eaten by humans — also show the effect of this pulp mill poisoning.



GOVERNOR Ronald Reagan's recent California tour was met with angry demonstrations, largely from students. For example in Eureka, where he spoke at the College of the Redwoods, students in the audience interrupted him frequently with questions. When he claimed to have appointed minority personnel to state jobs, one girl called out, "How many Panthers were killed?"

Centennial Journey

Imperialism's Achilles heel in the West Indies

People's uprising in Trinidad mounts new struggle

Vivian Raineri, People's World special correspondent, recently entered the Caribbean through the Panama Canal. She and two traveling companions, Virginia Proctor and Oleta Proctor, are headed for Europe where they will tour, ending up in Moscow for the Lenin Centennial observance.

By VIVIAN RAINERI
Port of Spain, Trinidad
(Delayed)

The people's uprising in Trinidad, triggered by the Montreal, Canada trial of ten Trinidad students, has brought to the surface long-smoldering demands for control by the people here of their own destiny and freedom.

That trial touched off an explosion on this island of over one million people, 90% of whom are blacks and West Indians. They are dominated by foreign interests, mainly United States and British, mainly oil and sugar.

Trinidad, and Tobago which lies 21 miles northeast of the larger island, have dominion status in the British Commonwealth.

The two islands are jointly administered through a central government. Thirteen years ago, on the basis of promises of reforms, the people elected a black govenment which, they now say "Ignores us, insults us and subjects us to black police brutality.

March 11, when our ship stopped for nine hours at Port of Spain — because one of us is black, because we wore our Black Panther party buttons, a series of incidents began which led to the rare opportunity to meet and interview leaders of the liberation and black power movement.

It is important to note that in these West Indian islands, populated by dispossessed and oppressed peoples of color and controlled by foreign interests and puppet governments, "black power" has a different connotation than in the United States at the present time.

The U.S. Black Panther party demands "power to the people, black power to black people" to meet specific conditions of oppression and formulate programs to combat the racist "white mother country."

Here the population is black and Indian; whites are a tiny minority, the colonial masters. Thus, it is in this context that we have heard over and over, through the Panama Canal and in the streets of Port of Spain, the call and the greeting, "black power."

The night before we arrived in Port of Spain, 20,000 people demonstrated in the streets. Three Canadian banks were fire-bombed. We saw the still smoking ruins of several foreign-owned businesses. A Chinese-owned firm was destroyed, we were told, the owners "cheated and lied."

The church, primarily Catholic and supported by the state, is being attacked for "siding with the authorities." Demonstrations have been held in the churches. Priests who side against the people have been beaten, we were told.

Several million dollars per year are exported to Rome. The church controls most of the education in Trinidad and the demand to improve "both the standards and conditions of education" is a major one in the movement.

The protests are led by the National Joint Action Committee, a coalition from all sections of the population, including students and workers and the unemployed.

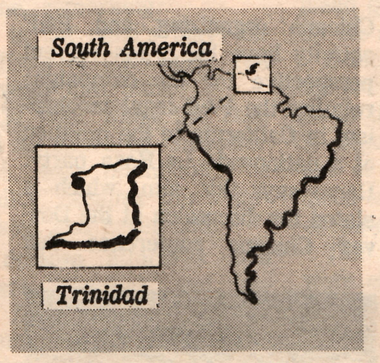
Unemployment is an acute problem. One figure given to us was 160,000 unemployed. One of the organizations involved in the Joint Action Committee is the Trinidad Black Panther party.

Geddes Granger, a University of Trinidad graduate, is prime spokesman for the Joint Action Committee. We spent two hours with liberation movement people helping us, trying to make direct contact with Granger. First, we were taken to see a union leader. We don't know what union, nor his name, and we didn't ask. Trinidad, we were told, is "swarming with CIA agents."

Provocateurs are also a problem. People are being arrested and constantly harassed and security for movement leaders is of major importance.

As we met various people, it was apparent that there is a network of security for the protection of their leaders.

We saw workers preparing picket signs for the next days march to the Caroni sugar plantation, when thousands were expected to enter the fields in solidarity with their "Indian brothers and sisters," to assist them in cutting and stacking cane. Some signs said, "Freedom for our Indian sisters. Freedom for our black sisters."



Bhadase Maraj, president of the All Sugar Estates and Factory Workers Trade Union, and a member of Parliament, who denounced the march and threatened violence, was branded a "stooge of the white imperialists and the black government of Trinidad and Tobago, and a traitor to the Indian Community." Cane cutters are predominantly Indians.

Granger, in a statement quoted in the local press, made it clear that "the demonstrators will be putting themselves under the authority and instructions of the workers on the field."

About Maraj, he said, "We are amazed that one who has been always clamoring for improved status for the sugar workers and condemning the semi-slave conditions should adopt such a hostile attitude."

(At this writing, we have been unable to get any more news of the march itself — there seems to be a blackout of this on other islands.)

We were not able to "catch up" to Granger the few hours we had ashore, just having missed him at a couple of places. This attempt took us through East Dry River, the hilly working class district of Port of Spain.

Police, we were told, don't dare to enter Dry River. The solidarity of the people is too great — "The people would kill them." We passed what seemed to be patrols of youth maintaining the security of the area for the people.

Police are not armed in Trinidad and it was said the militia was disarmed in the current struggle. Two reasons were given for this: the government is afraid arms would be taken from the militia, and the soldiers themselves, mostly young, may side with the people.

It was reiterated in several discussions that "the people are ready for change," that "they are tired of promises," that "even a lot of big boys are behind the movement but can't come out in the open."

A mimeographed "people's news letter" (the movement has no press) put it: "Trinidad is not a poor country. Our national budget is over 370 million dollars per year. We have lots of resources — land, oil, sugar, asphalt, petrochemicals, etc.

"So we have to ask ourselves: why so much unemployment? Why the gap between the haves and the have nots? What is important is who controls our resources, the people . . . or the American-English corporations. It is vital to know how our resources are developed, with whose money, and in whose interests."

(To be concluded next week)

LA RAZA: new labor and cultural movements

(Continued from page 2)

Well known actor Bill Dana will also be on the program. He is not a Chicano, but became deeply involved with the movement after he became the target of criticism because of his television and radio character, Jose Jiminez.

Now he has joined those who have won some battles in the campaign to end the stereotype of Mexican Americans in the media.

THRUST IN EDUCATION

Still another journal aimed at the growing audience interested in Chicano events will emanate shortly from the Mexican American Cultural Center at the University of California at Los Angeles. It is "Aztlan — Chicano Journal of the Social Sciences and Arts."

It will, its editors say, "serve as an authoritative and credible information source for the general public, and as a publishing outlet and meaningful classroom resource for teachers at all educational levels."

The associate editors of Aztlan are Juan Gomez, Jaime Sena Rivera, Roberto Sifuentes and Alfredo Cuellar.

Subscriptions may be obtained through the Mexican American Cultural Center, Campbell Hall, UCLA, Room 3121, 450 Hilgard avenue, L. A. 90024.

The first monograph published by the Cultural Center strikes close to the UCLA home. It is Deluvina' Hernandez's "Mexican American Challenge to a Sacred Cow," and critically reviews two research studies of the UCLA Graduate School of Education. These attempted to relate Mexican American "values" and academic achievements.

It is concluded in the monograph (which is also available from the Mexican American Center) that the researchers were guilty of "fixed stereotyped thinking and theoretical reincantation," and that they were guilty of "selling out the social sciences."

The research projects, Miss Hernandez concludes, were "destructive as well as meaningless, irrelevant and of low utility."

LA RAZA COUNCIL

Also sporting a new look these days is the Southwest Council of La Raza, headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, and having considerable impact on Chicano movements.

That five state region holds the largest Spanish surname population in the U. S.

Trade unionists play a key role in this privately funded organization which seeks to "assist local barrio development organizations (and) to work out solid programs for better housing, economic opportunities and quality education."

Reelected as president of La Raza at the March 14-15 meeting was Maclovio Barraza, representative of the AFL-CIO United Steelworkers of America, who for many years was one of the leaders of the independent Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union.

Henry Santiestevan, Inter-American representative of the United Auto Workers, is the executive secretary of the organization, replacing Herman Gallegos of San Francisco.

Santiestevan has long been active in support of the Delano-based United Farm Workers Union and has participated in many of the new Chicano movements.

Following his election he said, "Our emphasis during the forthcoming year will be on hard programs such as economics and housing development and more revelant schools."

He warned that the two year, $1.3 million grant from the Ford Foundation "sounds like a lot of money . . . but when placed against the overwhelming human and social needs of our people it is really very little."

The council, organized in February, 1968, is now getting off the ground, its officers say. "We are at the point now that we can begin actual hard programming," Santiestevan said.

Albert Pena Jr., Bexas county commissioner (San Antonio, Texas) was reelected vice president of the Southwest Council and Gallegos financial secretary.

FENCES AR
FOR PIG
NOT F
PEO

Photo: Sam Kushner

CHICANO STUDENTS demonstrate at Los Angeles' Roosevelt High School, for quality education that recognizes their cultural needs. A "freedom school" has been organized on the east side by teachers and students to fill the gap.

In addition to assisting in the preparation of a number of publications by eminent Chicano scholars the council also has produced a four part, 13 session course on La Raza which is complete with visual aids and a teacher's manual of 400 pages.

It covers La Raza — the Mexican people — from societies in ancient Mexico to the current struggles in the barrios. This extensive package is available from the council, 11 West Jefferson street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003.

All other council publications are available at this address.

The council is but another one of the instruments aimed at serving the new and rejuvenated movements in Chicano life.

—S.K.

Peace & Freedom candidate's view

La Raza: independent political action

SAN FRANCISCO — "We want to hear Romo" shouted a group of students at Eureka's College of the Redwoods as California Governor Ronald Reagan tried to conclude his speech amid jeers and waving of placards and Huelga flags.

Those students were talking about Ricardo Romo, a 28 year old Chicano organizer who is seeking the Peace and Freedom party nomination for governor in the June 2 primary. Romo is opposed by Warren Neilsen of San Diego, but is expected to net the nomination, as a P&F conference in Long Beach last month expressed its support for him by urging him and three other candidates to run.

The young organizer, who lives in the Chicano community of Union City, is currently involved in an economic self-development organization for the Chicano community, spent last year organizing Chicanos in the Pacific Northwest and had previously served as press secretary to Reies Tijerina during the Poor People's Campaign in Washington, D.C. and assistant to Tijerina during his visit to California in 1968 while he was seeking the P&F nomination for vice president.

Both Romo's experiences in Chicano organizing and P&F activity have led to his current perspective for the campaign: relating the P&F legal mechanism in California to the creation of a nationwide La Raza party. Romo says this aim, which is slated for discussion at the Denver Chicano conference this weekend, is consistent with P&F's principles of self-determination for minority communities.

Romo sees a La Raza party as a demonstration that "It is necessary to raise political consciousness in the Chicano community, but, at the same time, in a revolutionary context, to understand the need to work with other groups."

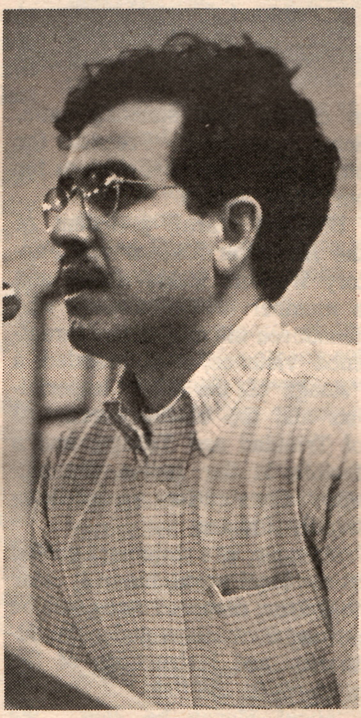
Although a La Raza party must be a separate political entity for as long as it takes to "get the community together", Romo emphasized, "eventually, to do anything in this system we will need one people's party, one united political party to implement the voice of the people."

OTHER PARTIES

Some Chicanos in the Democratic and Republican party, Romo said, claim they don't need a La Raza party. "But if they measure themselves by where they're at in those parties," he charged, "then they're terribly wrong."

What about militant Chicanos who choose to use other parties as political vehicles? Romo says he will "support any qualified La Raza candidate, no matter what his party, as long as I'm convinced he is running on behalf of the people and is willing to articulate that the Democratic and Republican parties are the mechanisms that big money uses to control the people."

Romo hopes the Denver meet will support his P&F candidacy and hopes it will "work in a context beyond the creation of a La Raza party, also working with other groups, like P&F, which are committed to its principles." —J.B.



RICARDO ROMO
Perspective for unity

LOS ANGELES

ELECT DELEGATES TO THE
20TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR DEFENSE OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS
SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1970 — 9 A.M. at
LARCHMONT HALL, 118 N. Larchmont Blvd., L.A.
PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOPS AGAINST REPRESSION
Enjoy Gala Dinner and Cultural Program — 7 P.M.
Auspices: L. A. Committee for Defense of the Bill of Rights

SAN FRANCISCO

OUR GRACE PARTRIDGE IS 78 YEARS YOUNG
A true daughter of the working class, always devoted to the struggle for Peace, Freedom and Socialism.
RECEPTION
At the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. Stallinger
608 Second Ave.
2 — 6 p.m. March 29
SPECIAL GUESTS:
AL RICHMOND and OTHERS
Refreshments
JON FROMER SINGS
Donations

ELSINORE

ELSINORE
I MOURN THE LOSS OF MY DEAR FRIEND
JACOB SIVER
IDA

EAST BAY

Farewell Beloved Comrade
BETTY GANNETT
Stout-Hearted Woman, Fighter
EAST BAY
TRADE UNION CLUB

• WHAT'S ON

LOS ANGELES

PLEASE RESERVE Saturday, April 11, 1970, 10 a.m. for the 20th Annual Conference of the Los Angeles Comm. for Defense of the Bill of Rights. To be held at the Larchmont Hall, 118 N. Larchmont Blvd., L.A.

DOROTHY HEALEY Telephone Program, 11:30 to 12:30 every Monday night. Radio Station KPFK.

VENICE

SAVE THE DATE, Sunday, April 12, 1970, at 4:00 for the young in spirit Manya Cutler's 85th birthday. Place: Philomathean Club, 1810 Broadway, Santa Monica. Fine food, entertainment by Youth Talent. Donation: $1.50. Guest speaker, Ben. Come one come all and honor an old timer and help the only progressive paper on the west coast, the PW. B. C. Press Comm.

• WANT ADS

CEMETERY LOT for sale, Walnut Creek. For information call The People's World business manager.

OLD PRESIDENTIAL campaign buttons wanted, $1, $5, $10 paid by collector. Especially Debs, Foster, Browder, Ford. Also buttons supporting a cause. Send to R. Siegel, 5207 Gifford, Cleveland Ohio 44144.

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ANNIVERSARY TOURS
Announces for 1970

We wish to thank the readers of this paper for making our May Day Tours to the Soviet Union such a huge success. Over 200 people are going. Reservations are closed.

A working arrangement has been established with "Special Tours for Special People" at the new address of our enlarged offices: 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. We can now offer you an even more varied choice of our expertly-conducted guided tours and help you iron-out the kinks in your Independent Travel plans to the Socialist countries, Western Europe, Latin and Central America, Africa and other parts of the world. Our experienced staff is equipped to advise you on all your travel needs, both foreign and domestic.

ANNIVERSARY TOURS ——— attract like-minded progressive people, whose interests are not limited to sightseeing. We cater to our travelers by organizing meetings, round-table discussions, factory and farm visits in the countries visited.

The following is just a partial listing of our many interesting tours projected for 1970.

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Popular Boat Trips
May 23rd to July 6th
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S.S. Pushkin to Leningrad
Moscow, Kiev, Sochi
Return by air.
June 2nd to June 23rd
3 weeks — $795, first class
Volga River Boat Cruise
August 24th to September 14th
By Popular Request, another
Volga River Boat Cruise
July 29th to August 19th
3 weeks — $795, first class
Dnieper River Boat Cruise

Homeland Tours
June 3rd to June 24th
3 weeks — $850, first class
Ukraine and RSFSR
June 3rd to June 24th
3 weeks — $745, tourist class
Byelorussia and RSFSR
July 29th to August 19th
3 weeks — $845, first class
USSR Mountains and Sea
August 26th to September 16th
3 weeks — $925, first class
USSR and Central Asia

Western Europe
May 30th to June 20th
3 weeks — $765, first class
Italy and Yugoslavia
July 17th to August 7th
3 weeks — $805, first class
Italy and France
July 30th to August 20th
3 weeks — $805, first class
Italy, France and England
September 3rd to September 24th
3 weeks — $805, first class
Leisurely bus trip through
North Italy. Paris in-depth

Mexican Tours
4 tours scheduled for July
approximately $635 to $675

African Safari
July 21st to August 15th — $1295
Kenya and Tanzania

Asia
July 27th to August 23rd — $1595
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Phnom Penh, Honolulu, etc.

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Car and railroad trips at very low prices.

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BOOKS

The Japanese-American relocation—detailed story that misses some points

THE GREAT BETRAYAL. By Audrie Girdner and Anne Loftis. New York: The Macmillan Co.

OF THE several books published dealing with the evacuation of Japanese Americans during World War II, "The Great Betrayal" is the most detailed story. However, it is covered from a pacifist point of view.

The writers painstakingly searched out words of evacuees among the 110,000 of Japanese ancestry — 70,000 of whom were U.S. citizens — unjustly incarcerated without hearing or trial in 10 concentration camps in California, Arizona, Arkansas and four midwestern states.

A short poem by a girl evacuee, probably from California, in the Heart Mountain camp expresses the inner feelings of most of us who were in the camps:

> "Snow upon the rooftop,
> Snow upon the coal;
> Winter in Wyoming—
> Winter in my soul."

The book does not point out, however, that this was not the first time that racist America drove an entire racial minority into "detention camps." Back in 1830, the Indian Removal Act was passed during President Andrew Jackson's regime and the army was used to "remove" the Indians, handcuffed and chained togehter, across the Mississippi.

Some 112 years later, the army was again used to carry out the "Civilian Exclusion Order of All Persons of Japanese Ancestry" from Pacific Coast "military" areas. The evacuation was not "in part an expression of American frontier behavior" as the book states, but it was deep-rooted racism fostered in this country for years by white supremacists who acted as an instrument of U.S. imperialism.

EVEN THE Communist Party, USA fell into the trap of expediency by suspending more than 100 Japanese Americans from its membership right after Pearl Harbor, as the book relates. The reason given by the party for this shameful action was; "the party was an ideal place for any Japanese fifth columnist to hide."

However, Communists of Japanese ancestry understood the true aims of World War II, which was the defeat of the fascist-military axis. Practically all of them volunteered — many from behind barbed wire — for military services in the Pacific theatre, Office of War Information, Office of Strategic Services, language schools, etc. They were not "Trotskyites" and were not "taken out of the centers" as the authors write.

THE AUTHORS also minimize the pro-Japanese militarist activities of Issei (Japan born) in this country prior to World War II. Not only "occasionally," speakers from Japan came in large numbers to address Japanese communities, defending and applauding Japan's China policy. Among them were scores of military men, Diet members and war correspondants.

Their "invasion stories of China" were enthusiastically received not only by the Issei but also their Nisei offspring who attended Japanese language schools. The speakers returned to Japan laden with war relief, war chest funds, comfort kits and "letters of encouragement" — some written by the school children — for the "fighting Japanese imperial soldiers in North China," just as Italian children here were taught to worship Mussolini and send "letters of appreciation" to Italy.

A few local Japanese newspapermen and Buddhist ministers made trips to North China as "messengers of consolation" and brought back stories of "the glorious and victorious Japanese imperial army wiping out Chinese bandits."

However, these facts do not justify the disgraceful mass evacuation. It was a simple political solution, hit upon by the racists who grabbed the opportunity to get rid of the "yellow peril" from the "mainland" and dehumanize us behind barbed wire.

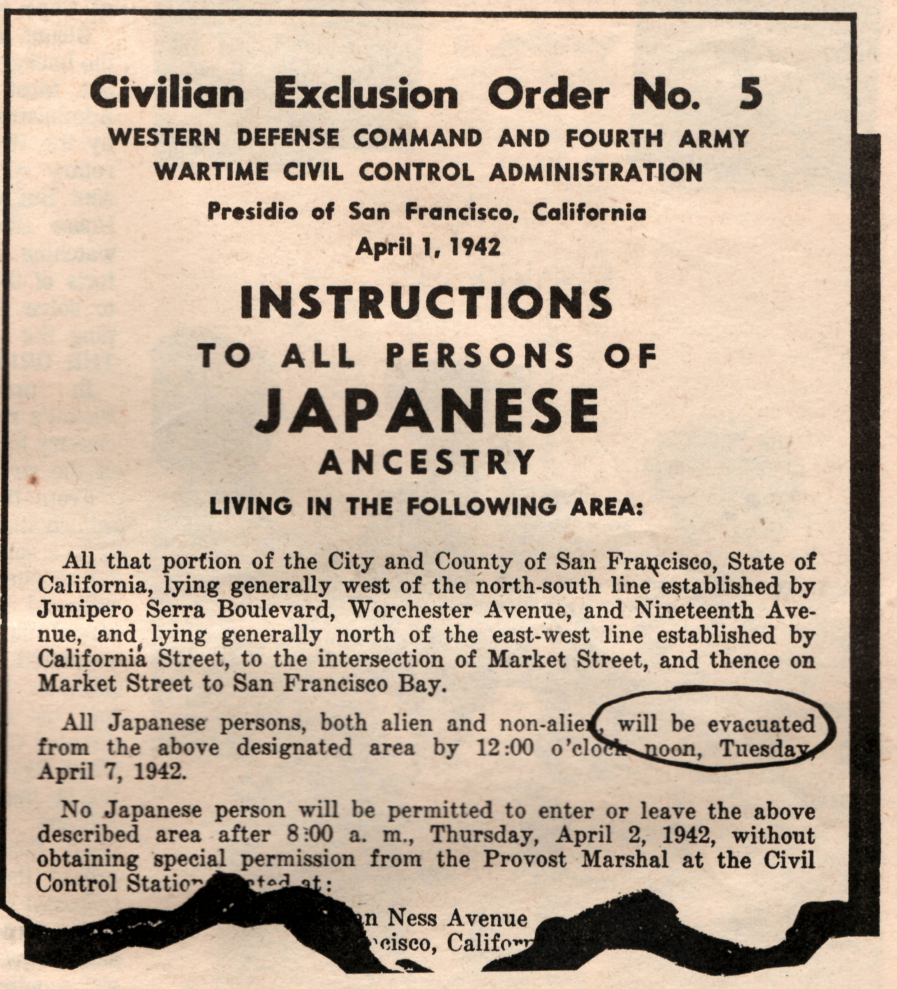
The book fails to explain why no mass evacuation of JAs took place from Hawaii. It was because they made up one-third of the population, and had become political as well as economic factors. Many of them held elective offices, and thousands were integrated into the organized labor force — this made the evacuation-advocators retreat from that area.

THE BOOK takes note of the Japanese American Citizen League's campaign to repeal Title II (concentration camps) of the McCarran Act. However, this would be in vain unless S12 and similar bills sponsored by Senators James Eastland (Dem.-Miss.), George Murphy (Dem.-Calif.) and their ilk are defeated.

Words spoken 28 years ago by Rep. John Rankin: "Once a Jap, always a Jap. You can't any more regenerate a Jap than you can reverse the law of nature," are applied to the blacks, browns and reds today by the racists, who still dominate so much of our land.

In spite of areas of ideological vacuum, "The Great Betrayal" should be read by every one because this expose will and should make every one realize that there must never be concentration camps in this country again for anyone.

—KARL G. YONEDA



Civilian Exclusion Order No. 5

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
April 1, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY
LIVING IN THE FOLLOWING AREA:

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worchester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon, Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Statio cted at:

n Ness Avenue
cisco, Califor

THEATER

Satire: Committee misses on two counts

SAN FRANCISCO

THE COMMITTEE started off its eighth year a week ago with a stale opening line. One of the actors walked out on the stage to announce: "We used to do political satire."

The line is stale because the same announcement has been made each year for the last few years. About the only purpose it serves is to alert those of us out in the dark cavern who remember with fondness the Committee we knew and loved: "Now grow up. The things we are going to say are going to be funny and if you don't laugh it's because you're still hung up on that political stuff. The new subject of humor is psychology and sex. That's adult humor."

Maybe they weren't saying that at all. Maybe I'm just being defensive. It's not the only problem. Another problem is the new show isn't funny.

NOR, IN FACT, is it non-political. The largest number of lines about any one subject, and the ones that by and large got the most laughs from the audience, were about black people and Richard Nixon's Administration — hardly non-political subjects.

That's cheating. To get laughs on either subject is pretty easy and in both cases it works on the same principle. If you don't laugh you're either to sensitive about your patriotism or immature about the color question.

The problem with the new show, and what really distinguishes it from the old Committee, is that rather than being theater, the new production is vaudeville. The whole program rests on jokes. The Nixon jokes are Polish jokes and the black jokes are watermelon jokes. Some of them are pretty funny but the drinks cost too much. If that is your kind of humor, you can hear it with more gusto in places where a shot is only two bits.

BUT THEN there aren't many bars in the towns where most of the people come from who are going to the Off Broadway these days. After you have been next door to see Stark Naked and the Car Thieves you've got something to tell the folks back home. Might as well throw in a joke about an undernourished Nigerian child. (Would a joke about Auschwitz be funny?)

There are a couple of exceptions to all this, places in the show that come close to almost being worth the trip up there. There's a scene called "Office" which is really very heavy stuff. It's some of the sharpest, most penetrating humor available. It very quickly gets under your skin and shoots the anxiety level up.

The same can be said for an excellent improvisation done opening night by Don Sturdy and Ed Greenberg about two male roomates who wake up in the morning to discover they discovered each other the night before.

The entire cast is good. Sturdy, Dan Barrows and Bruce Mackey especially. The talent becomes more than obvious in a brilliantly executed piece called "Emotional Symphony."

THE SHOW ends with a vaudeville routine called "Hats Off to Bad Taste." The problem is that it's in bad taste. It no doubt wows the tourists. But in reality it is offensive.

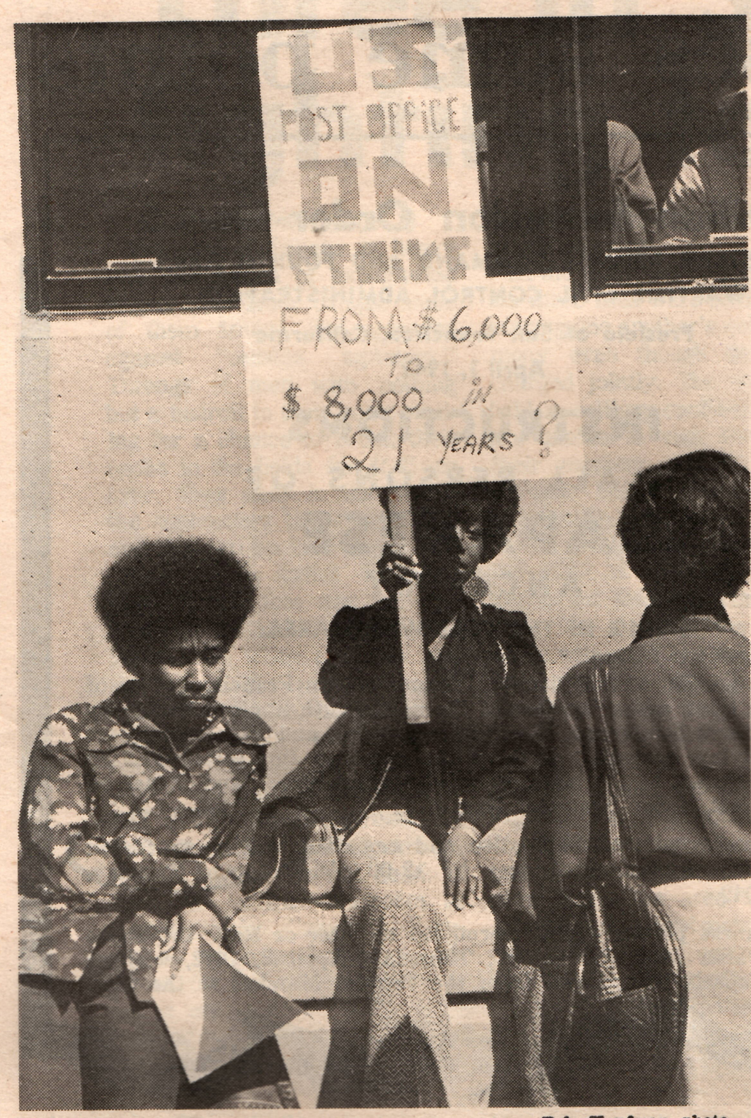
Satire can and should offend one's sensitivities. But in doing so it should help to illuminate life, reveal to people things about themselves and the world they can't or won't deal with any other way. Secondly, it must be funny.

On both counts, the old Committee had it, the new one misses.

—CARL BLOICE

THE NEW COMMITTEE
Non-political or not?

Union demands a 12% boost



Bob Kaufman photo

San Francisco postal workers . . .

(Continued on back page)

Brothers' business was with the federal government. That came to about $40 million. It included the $25 million testing chamber at Cape Kennedy.

Blount stayed pretty much in the background during the walkout. Most statements from the Administration have been made by the White House press secretary speaking for the President. But on March 19, the White House said the President was watching with interest "the efforts of the postmaster general to solve the situation by stopping the work stoppage."

THE ORIGINS

In order to understand Blount's role, however, it is necessary to go back to the origins of the strike.

From the beginning the Administration tied any possibility of a substantial raise for postal employees to his ambitious proposal to transform the post office into a private government regulated, profit making corporation. Of course the proposal had the strong support of the national Chamber of Commerce, which Blount headed before coming on the Nixon team.

Every proposal that came from Congress for a pay increase that was not connected to postal reform was threatened with a Presidential veto. At the same time Nixon delayed for six months a proposal for an across the board raise for all federal employees.

CONGRESSIONAL PACKAGE

The Congressional wage increase proposals, always larger from the House than from the Senate, were never to the liking of the postal workers themselves. They simply didn't meet the money needs of people hit hard by inflation. They also didn't conform to the increases being won in private industry. But the passage of any one of them might have averted the nationwide walkout.

But the President and Blount were holding out for their precious reforms.

The postal workers, on the other hand, took more than a dim view of the reform measures. As most press reports have indicated, they fear mostly loss of the security of their seniority system.

But unreported is the fact that for many, many years the post office has been looked upon as a special blessing in the black community. There the many postal workers have some standing and are envied, because they have (until recently) made a reasonable wage. But more importantly, in the insecure world of the ghetto, a secure job in civil service is a coveted possession.

A DEAL

So, the first seed of the strike was the "deal" the Administration tried to strike with Congress. Of course, in situations like this, Congress is made to appear the bad guy for not going along. While Congress can hardly be said to have been battling for the postal workers, it was the President's veto that ignited the explosion.

Then there came a second deal. All of the major union representing postal workers opposed the postal reform bill. All wanted a raise. On Dec. 5, 1969, the leader of the largest of the unions went to a secret meeting at the White House. When Nixon finished speaking to James H. Rademacher, president of the National Assn. of Letter Carriers, a second deal had been struck.

Nixon and Rademacher agreed the union head would support postal reform and the Administration would support a pay raise. Rademacher is reported to have been quite pleased with himself for having gone over the head of Blount, who opposed any substantial pay increase.

As they often do, the deal fell through.

Nixon couldn't get his postal package off Capitol Hill. In return, Rademacher couldn't control his membership.

ALREADY UNDERWAY

When the giant New York locals found out what was going on, the revolt was underway.

When meetings of the New York locals booed and hissed "the rat maker" it was as much for the deal as it was anger over Rademacher's insistance that they return to work.

By Tuesday the main thrust of the strike had — for the moment — been broken, most workers were back on the job in most cities, except New York where the army units Nixon had ordered out Monday were still sorting the mail.

Blount then agreed to negotiate. When Rademacher insisted on amnesty for the strikers, Blount, who in his California speech, had been big on dealing with "illegal" strikes, retorted, "We obviously have to deal with the illegal status of the walkout."

WILDCAT VICTORY

On Wednesday the strike appeared to be over. Upon being told an agreement had been reached with the Administration providing for a 12% increase, workers in the Manhattan local voted to return to work and the troops were ordered withdrawn.

To most observers, if the 12% stuck, the strikers had won a victory. But the victory was for the "wildcat" strikers, led by the rank and file militants. The stage had been set for the emergency bargaining by the thousands of men and women who stubbornly rejected calls to return without an agreement. Except in a few places where local officials sided with them, they were leaderless.

But the efforts to divide the workers — white against black, young against old — which were tried, for the most part failed. With handmade signs the strikers stuck it out.

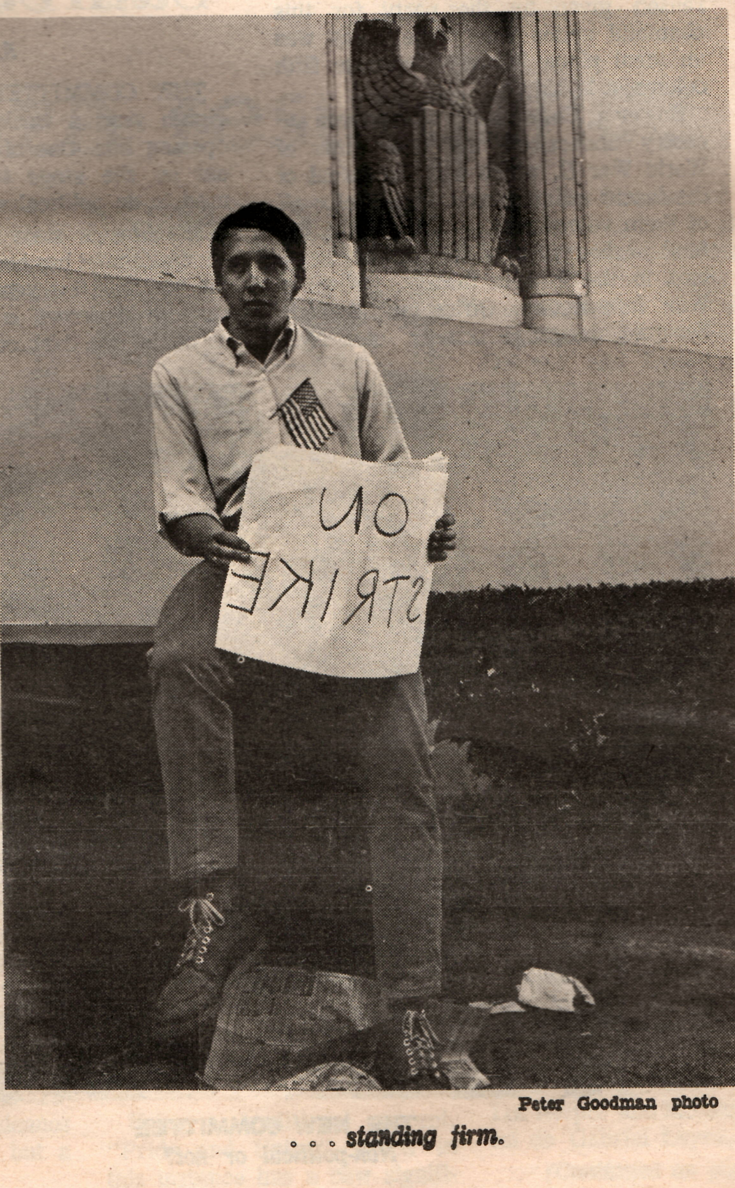
The Administration failed to Blount them.

In San Francisco, a secondary union leader told a group of strikers, "We had a three day wildcat that was one of the most beautiful events that has ever occured in San Frncisco labor history. It was the only city and county where the clerks took the lead with all the facilities closed down within 5 to 10% of the workload. I could not do that again for you. What you can do is up to you, basically and your new leaders such as you see it."

Service union supports strike

NEW YORK — The American Servicemen's Union, which says it represents Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine enlisted men at over 200 bases and on 50 ships around the world sent the following message of solidarity to striking postal workers:

Winton M. Blount, Nixon's racist Postmaster General and wealthy businessman from Alabama, is threatening to use G.I.'s to move the tons of mail. The American Servicemen's Union is instructing its membership to resist this strikebreaking order. Point 6 of the ASU 10 point program states loud and clear: "No troops to be used against workers on strike."



Peter Goodman photo

. . . standing firm.

Postal worker firm; rap about living costs

SAN FRANCISCO — "What's the meaning of going out if we have to go back?" a 27 year old black postal worker asked angrily minutes after President Nixon's speech threatening to use troops to break the strike.

"I don't see why they have to wait for people to get back to work to come to an agreement," she continued. "Nixon got a 100% raise and gave Congress 40%. If it takes that much for him to live, what do you think it takes us?"

This kind of anger was found on most of the postal strikers' picket lines. And one of the main things that led up to that anger was the inability to achieve a decent standard of living with the wages most postal workers are earning.

The angry woman worker, who is the sole support of two children, said her check doesn't match the rising cost of living. "In order for me to have even a little left over," she said, "I have to work overtime, and that is something you can't depend on. Then I have to pay the babysitter that much more."

Her story — or a close variation of it — was echoed throughout the San Francisco picket lines.

COSTS RISE

A woman postal picket who charged, "the cost of living is rising faster than our paychecks are" said, "I'm not married — it's just me — and I can't make it. So I can understand why all the rest of the people are having even more difficulty than I am." She said she knew of women who worked in the post office with her who had to go to the welfare department for help.

One young worker who had worked for the post office for two and a half years said that "if my wife wasn't working we couldn't make it. We pay $150 rent. I would like to be able to pay better benefits for life insurance and health. As of now, these things are deducted from my salary. As in private industry, industry itself pays for that sort of thing."

Frequently, sentiments of the picketers went beyond the need for higher wages. One example was a striker at the Postal Concentration Center, which handles military mail to the Orient.

"What we have here as far as I'm concerned," he said, "is a people's strike. These people happen to be postal workers. It's not a union strike. The union leadership has been afraid or unwilling to lead this strike. The postal workers have been walking out across the country — I think it's a protest against the system as they come up against it, working in the post office."

'A MAYBE'

A young carrier who worked in the business district was extremely skeptical about Nixon's speech. The strikers, he said, "are asking for a commitment before we go back to work. Nixon didn't give us that, he gave us a maybe. Like, we go back to work and start the mail to moving and the crisis is passed and then he says, 'okay, now we're going to see what's really bugging you.'

"Then he'll take some damned survey and appoint some committee and the whole thing is going to get buried under the same system that still exists," the striker charged .